




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Alcohol Fuelled Violence

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.33 am): Mr Speaker, as you are aware, in the early hours of this morning the parliament passed the tackling alcohol fuelled violence bill. Queensland finally has laws in place which the evidence shows will reduce alcohol fuelled violence. I made a commitment while in opposition to implement laws that would keep Queenslanders safer. I am proud to say that as a government we have delivered those laws. As I said last night, doing nothing is not an option. As I travel across this state I have been stopped on countless occasions by Queenslanders urging me to push ahead with these reforms. It is almost impossible to find a doctor or nurse who opposes them. It is almost impossible to find a police officer or paramedic who supports allowing our young people to drink until 5 am in the morning with devastating consequences. Then you have the families of victims who have gone through so much trauma and the families of young people who hope and pray that when their kids go out they will come home safely.

Amongst other measures, the new laws will see last drinks called at 2 am in pubs and clubs statewide and a 3 am last drinks call in safe night precincts. A 1 am lockout will be introduced in February next year, giving the industry time to transition to the new arrangements. As part of our constructive conversations with the KAP, we will also begin consultation with stakeholders around extending banning orders from safe night precincts to drug offenders. I have spoken with the Attorney-General, and today I can announce that that consultation will begin next week. We will not rush this process, but we will ensure that it is undertaken as quickly as possible so that any legislative changes can be introduced as closely as possible to the introduction of the new trading hours.

I want Queenslanders and visitors to our state to go out and enjoy our state's vibrant night-life. I want those precincts to be vibrant, prosperous and successful, but ultimately I want them to be as safe as they can be. We know that we cannot stop every single act of alcohol fuelled stupidity. We will not stop every coward punch and we will not stop every senseless brawl, but the evidence from around the world has proven that the best way to reduce those incidents and the best way to keep our kids as safe as we possibly can is a modest change to the number of hours alcohol is served. I am extremely proud that in this parliament we have been able to do our bit as legislators and put the community's safety first.