




Speech By  
**Shane King**

**MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR**

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**TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (SMOKE-FREE PLACES)  
AMENDMENT BILL; TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS  
(EXTENSION OF SMOKING BANS) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (7.31 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill, presented by the Hon. Minister for Health. This bill seeks to amend the 1998 tobacco act to create more smoke-free public places across Queensland, prohibit the sale of smoking products from temporary retail outlets and make some minor amendments to clarify and strengthen Queensland's tobacco laws.

No-one can deny that tobacco products are toxic, addictive and increasingly expensive. Tobacco products are the only products sold legally on the market today that studies say will kill half of those who use them when used as intended. With these statistics plain for all to see, I cannot understand why so many still choose to take up the use of tobacco products. Yet I do not judge, because like the member for Bulimba I live with a smoker, who smokes outside. I cannot judge or I will get into trouble. Over the years I have tried smoking, but it never really grabbed me. Every time I tried to smoke and be one of the 'cool kids', I would get dizzy and was put off. Thank goodness for that. I still choose to associate with smokers and, no doubt, have copped a fair helping of second-hand smoke, just like the other 85 per cent of Queenslanders who are nonsmokers and who continue to be exposed to second-hand smoke in public places.

In Queensland our daily smoking rates have been declining; however, this decline is slowing. Something needs to be done to help those who are addicted. Each year more than 3,700 Queenslanders—a figure 10 times greater than the annual road toll—fall victim to smoking related diseases. No-one can deny the benefit to our Health budget from reducing smoking or the social obligation that we as legislators have to encourage young people not to start smoking, as well as to help smokers quit and to reduce the exposure of nonsmokers to second-hand smoke.

A multistrategy approach such as strong tobacco legislation like the federal government's plain-packaging laws, along with quit-smoking mass media campaigns and smoking cessation services has been proven to reduce smoking rates. The phased introduction of smoking bans, tobacco retail restrictions and other strategies in Queensland between 2001 and 2014 has contributed to reducing smoking rates by 30 per cent. This means that in 2014 we had 190,000 fewer smokers than we would have had without making the attempt to help cut down smoking. The primary objectives in this bill are to create more smoke-free places that will reduce Queenslanders' exposure to second-hand smoke and the social acceptance of smoking, especially for young people, and provide a support to help people quit smoking—maybe someone at my place.

For the past 10 years, the tobacco act has banned smoking at many outdoor public places, including near children's playground equipment, between the flags on patrolled beaches, at prescribed outdoor swimming areas such as artificial beaches, at major event facilities such as Suncorp Stadium and at outdoor eating and drinking venues. In 2014 those bans were extended to schools and health facilities.

The bill will protect the community and, in particular, the health of young people from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke by extending the smoking bans to all outdoor pedestrian malls, public transport waiting points, public swimming facilities, skate parks, sporting grounds and spectator areas during organised under-age sporting events, early childhood education and care facilities, and private and public residential aged-care facilities, except in nominated areas. In addition, the bill will enable smoking to be banned at prescribed national parks or parts of national parks, and prescribed outdoor government precincts. The bill will also give local governments the power to make laws banning smoking at any outdoor public place that is not covered by state smoking laws.

To sum up, the facts are clear: smoking is harmful and we must do all we can so that Queenslanders who do not smoke do not have to breathe in second-hand smoke and to make it easier for those who do smoke to quit. I commend the bill to the House.