




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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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**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.32 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015. Reducing the public places where people can smoke will have a real impact on preventing smoking uptake among our young people.

As the Minister for Women and Youth, I am profoundly concerned about the rates of smoking among young people, particularly young mothers. Young women are 2½ times more likely to smoke at some time during their pregnancy than older women. Women from disadvantaged areas are six times more likely to smoke during pregnancy than those in advantaged areas—26 per cent compared with four per cent.

Sadly, many smokers take up the habit in their teenage years not fully recognising, with the invincibility of youth, the toll it will take on their health and that of their families. Every time a pregnant woman smokes a cigarette it cuts down oxygen to her unborn baby and exposes it to a cocktail of chemicals including those that cause cancer. Smoking during pregnancy can increase the risk of a miscarriage and infant death as well as increasing the risk of SIDS by up to three times. Health issues at birth can have an impact on further developmental issues in young children, and this can include implications for children being school ready. There is also a correlation between teen mothers and premature births and vulnerability of physical health, cognitive and language skills of the child.

Compared to Queensland-wide benchmarks, my own city of Logan has higher rates of teen mothers, higher rates of women smoking during pregnancy and higher rates of babies born prematurely and underweight. The Logan Together initiative is focusing on improving the quality of life and opportunities for children from before birth to age eight. It is a long-term 10-year project which aims to lift the health and wellbeing of some of our most marginalised groups including teen mums and their babies. The Logan Together initiative is doing groundbreaking work to create universal access to antenatal care for Logan mothers, particularly those under the age of 19, as well as birthing and post-birth services including, importantly, intensive antismoking support.

I am a passionate supporter of the Logan Together initiative and the work they are doing to reduce smoking amongst pregnant young women in Logan and I am the lead minister and Queensland government representative on the Logan City of Choice leadership team. Logan Together is a flagship initiative of the Logan City of Choice. Of course, it is our children, the future leaders of Logan, who are

the ones who will benefit from this program. The number of people who are involved in this important community project reflects just how much the community is helping to drive Logan Together and encouraging our children to be healthier.

My department is, of course, leading the establishment of an initiative in Central Queensland called Every Child Deserves Every Chance, which aims to improve life outcomes for kids in the region. Central Queensland has a higher rate of low-weight baby births and, sadly, statistics show that 60 per cent of Indigenous women in Central Queensland reported that they smoked during pregnancy. Both Logan Together and Every Child Deserves Every Chance show our government is working towards providing services to help young mothers with antismoking support, but we need to do more to stop the influence of smoking among our young people. Research shows that children are more likely to be influenced to smoke if they regularly see other people smoking.

This bill will create a smoke-free environment at and within 10 metres of a sporting ground during organised children's sporting events and will reinforce the message that smoking is not a part of a healthy and active lifestyle, especially when young people are involved. I love sports and sporting events and I am particularly passionate about encouraging women's and girls' participation in sport. Sport is something which brings our community together, but what we do not want is for that family or person who has come along to cheer on their loved ones on the field to have passive smoke blowing in their direction for hours on end. Similarly, if you are in a children's playground or swimming pool where there are lots of families, kids and people enjoying a break, you should not be smoking. These new rules will enforce that common sense.

Personally, I am becoming increasingly intolerant of smoking and I think that is because, as a society, we are seeing a lot less of it. It is great that we can be at a pub or in a restaurant and not have that passive smoking. Those changes which were brought in many years ago now have had a really positive impact on reducing smoking in our community. These days when you walk up the street and you can smell that someone is smoking it is very pervasive. It smells strong because it is now so unusual. That is what we want: for smoking to become a rarity for the sake of our community's health, our hospitals and our society. This bill will reinforce the message that smoking is not a part of a healthy and active lifestyle, especially when young people are involved. As we know, young people can be impressionable and there is often a lure of something which is forbidden. As I often say, usually regarding gender politics, 'You can't be what you can't see.' So if young people do not see other young people, including role models, smoking they will be far less inclined to take it up.

The other week I did see the story about Shane Warne being allowed to keep up his smoking habit while appearing on *I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!* It is a shame that 'Warnie' did not use this opportunity to quit smoking along with participating in the other challenges of jungle life such as consuming various beetles and wildlife. However, the producers of the program made sure his smoking was off set, acknowledging the family audience. This shows how far we have come in terms of recognition of the powerful influence that sporting people and other role models can have on others. It is great to see that we are now very conscious of not having celebrities pictured while smoking. All of these things are important steps towards changing our culture. We must change our culture and we must change our laws in our bid for a smoke-free future. I commend the bill to the House.