




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2016

MOTION

Lockout Laws

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (6.29 pm): It has been four months since this House passed the legislation to tackle alcohol fuelled violence, and those on the other side have nothing new to add to this debate—not one shred of evidence; no facts whatsoever to support their argument. I rise to speak in opposition to this motion. I want to put some facts on the table again—something that none of the three speakers on the other side has sought to do tonight.

On 13 September the Callinan report was released, but we have not seen one press release, one tweet, one social media post, one question in question time or one statement about that report. Why would that be? Would it be because the Callinan report acknowledged the following—

In my opinion, the objectives of the Amendments are valid.

Mr Bleijie: That is not a report on Queensland laws!

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, all we heard through the debate on the bill is that this will kill Queensland like it killed Kings Cross in Sydney's CBD. We heard it time and time again by those opposite. One would think that they would be referring to the Callinan report about what happened in Sydney. The Callinan report goes on to state—

Of all the groups holding opinions, it seems to me that the medical profession and the emergency workers have the least or no self-interest. Their opinion, formed on the frontline as it were, must carry a great deal of weight.

We have heard from two of those professionals here tonight. The way that those on the other side have verbalised the member for Stafford in relation to his strong stance on this is appalling, but that is what we get when there is no evidence to back up their argument. We know that a poll by FARE in February of this year showed almost two-thirds of Queenslanders support the late-night trading hour measures recently announced by the Queensland government to reduce alcohol fuelled violence. Eighty per cent of Queenslanders believe that Australia has a problem with excess drinking or alcohol abuse. The majority of Queenslanders believe that more needs to be done to reduce the harm caused by alcohol fuelled violence, injury and death, and related issues. The majority of Queenslanders expect that alcohol related problems in Australia will remain the same or get worse—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Attorney-General, I apologise for interrupting. I counsel members that, if you are warned now, that will warning will continue. We have an important bill being debated tonight.

Mrs D'ATH: The survey goes on to say that the majority of Queenslanders do not believe that governments, alcohol companies and pubs and clubs are doing enough to address alcohol misuse, and two-thirds of Queenslanders consider the city or centre of town to be unsafe on a Saturday night—an increase from 52 per cent in 2015.

We have heard from those opposite that we are going to see job losses and clubs shut down. On 8 September this year an article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* noted that three new nightclubs are planning to open in Surfers Paradise despite stiff new liquor laws. New owners of Shooters plan to reopen the first stage of a three-venue superclub in its existing premises. Across the road, Truth nightclub is promoting its scheduled 20 October opening. Cavill Avenue's Elsewhere nightclub has previously said it would be starting a new live venue on Orchid Avenue by October. If these laws are so bad and they are going to shut businesses, why are we getting three brand-new clubs opening on the Gold Coast? I can advise that since 1 July the Office of Liquor and Gaming has received 261 new licence applications.

Dr Lynham: Two hundred and sixty one?

Mrs D'ATH: Two hundred and sixty one new licence applications, and 238 licence applications have been approved since 1 July. The scaremongering of those on the other side is appalling. I will end on this—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Southport, you are warned under standing order 253A. As I indicated, debate on an important bill has started and it will continue to be debated later tonight. This warning will continue.

Mrs D'ATH: Let us remember why we introduced these laws. I noticed yesterday an article in relation to a one-punch attack outside a Canberra nightclub at 1.20 in the morning. The man who received the blow to the head was caught by a friend before he hit the ground, but he was still seriously injured and required facial surgery. His jaw was broken and he received three metal plates as part of the surgery to reconstruct his jaw. We might not see these headlines every day. We are not seeing deaths every day, but they have happened, they are happening, and people are being glassed and injured. We have a responsibility to act and that is what this government has done.