




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Workplace Health and Safety, Audit

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.41 pm): Each and every Queenslanders deserves to go home to their loved ones safe and healthy at the end of every working day. Keeping workers healthy and safe is a priority for the Palaszczuk government. Who could ever forget those shocking images of the workplace tragedies from last year and the unimaginable loss and pain for the families of those who lost their lives. These tragic deaths brought home the need for continued and sustained efforts to improve safety at all of our workplaces and public venues. That is why in October last year the Palaszczuk government announced that it would undertake a best practice audit of our work health and safety procedures and laws.

The scope of the audit is wide and includes all of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland's functions including inspections, investigations, prosecutions, laws and audit procedures. We are totally committed to making sure that our workplace health and safety laws and regulations are the best possible. We want world's best practice health and safety audit procedures for all of Queensland. The terms of reference for the best practice audit include that consideration be given to the introduction of the new offence of negligence causing death and whether current penalty provisions and processes act as a sufficient deterrent. I am pleased to advise that, after careful consideration of all of the material before him, the government has accepted the interim recommendation of best practice auditor Tim Lyons that this offence needs to be created as a matter of priority. We have publicly released our decision with regard to this important matter.

As part of the best practice audit, Tim Lyons is working with stakeholders on the best way to give effect to the proposed new law of negligence causing death. We need to start the wheels in motion now so that stakeholder groups can focus on recommending a best practice model for the introduction of this offence rather than further considering the merits of its introduction. We owe it to the victims and families of these terrible events to ensure that everything will be done to prevent this from ever happening again.