




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

ID Scanners

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.08 am): It has been reported that Prince Frederik was refused entry into a licensed venue on Friday evening. If reports are correct, the facts are that the licensed venue applied the law equally to Prince Frederik as to anyone else who visits our venues. The prince obviously did not take great offence to this, as he returned a short time later and was granted entry. The government is not aware of any complaints made by the prince or his protection unit. The fact is that this has not caused a diplomatic incident, as some would have us believe. I suspect that most Queenslanders would be pleased to know the laws are applied to everyone.

In relation to the policy of ID scanners, I am pleased to report that the new networked ID scanner system has stopped offenders on banning orders accessing venues on 76 occasions. People are still going out on the town and enjoying themselves, with 1.4 million people entering licensed venues in safe night out precincts alone since the start of July. We will never truly know how many lives are saved and how many assaults we stop by having these scanners in place, but knowing that parents are more likely to have their child come home safe because they are there is worth it. Given that many venues are recognising the benefits of stopping these people from accessing venues and keeping their patrons safe, they are actually operating the scanners earlier in the evening now.

Under the Palaszczuk government's initiatives to tackle alcohol fuelled violence, we have seen an increase in the number of licensed venues in Queensland: as at 30 June 2015 there were 7,526 licences, in 2016 there were 7,865 licences and as at 30 June this year there were 8,185 licences. This is an increase of 659 new licences under the Palaszczuk government in the past two years. New licences mean new venues which mean new jobs. This is a win-win for Queensland, making our safe night out precincts safer and increasing our entertainment venues across Queensland, which leads to more jobs.