




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2022

POLICE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.29 pm): I would like to begin by acknowledging our nurses on International Nurses Day. I think everyone here would agree that at some stage of our life we are going to be looking into the eyes of a nurse and need that nurse. I want to stay on side with them, so I wish them all the very best and want them to know how much I appreciate them.

I rise to make a very brief contribution in support of the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. This bill brings new legislative safeguards to assist our hardworking protective services officers and police officers. Some of these safeguards are designed to assist protective services officers and police officers to maintain their standards and increase public confidence in the professionalism of these officers. Maintaining public confidence in those who ensure our safety and wellbeing is a vital element of our law and order. This ensures that the public can be assured that police and protective services officers are performing their tasks to safeguard our rights as individuals and those of the people whom they are protecting.

Police powers will continue to be subject to the safeguards outlined in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. However, a further safeguard will be introduced in relation to the proposed power to require the name and address of a person who is in or about to enter a state building and to direct a person to leave a state building. These powers may only be exercised if the police officer reasonably suspects the requirement is necessary to maintain the security of that state building. A direction to leave a state building will be an enforcement act requiring details to be recorded in the enforcement register.

In relation to major changes that relate to protective services officers, the following safeguards will be added: a protective security officer who is not in uniform must clearly display the officer's identity card or produce for inspection their identity card before exercising a power unless it is not reasonably practicable to do so; if it is not reasonably practicable, the protective security officer must produce the identity card for inspection at the first reasonable opportunity; in relation to the power to request a name and address, the power may only be exercised if the protective security officer reasonably suspects the requirement is necessary to maintain the security of that state building. In regard to screening, a police officer or protective security officer or adult assisting the officer may only touch a garment the person is wearing if that person is of the same sex.

The new section of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act will require a police officer or protective security officer inspecting the belongings of an entrant to make every effort to ensure minimal embarrassment to the person concerned. For example, if the officer forms a reasonable suspicion the inspection of a person's belongings is necessary, the officer may ask the entrant to allow an inspection of the person's belongings out of public view to protect the dignity of the entrant. In relation to directions, if an entrant to a state building fails to comply with a screening or inspection process, a protective security officer or police officer may direct the person to leave the building. However, the PSO is not to give the direction if the entrant states they do not want to be screened or have their belongings inspected

and they are prepared to leave the state building immediately with their belongings, or if the PSO started to screen the entrant or inspect their belongings and the entrant does not want the screening or inspection to continue and they are prepared to leave that state building immediately with their belongings, or the entrant just leaves straightaway with their belongings.

A PSO, similar to a police officer, giving an oral direction must warn, if practicable, the person it is an offence to fail to comply with the direction without a reasonable excuse and give the person another opportunity to comply. Directions to leave a state building must only be given where the PSO reasonably suspects the requirement is necessary to maintain the security of that building. I believe the changes being proposed in the bill are important. Our PSOs and police officers have at times a thankless job, and appreciation and respect is something they deserve. Having these clear requirements will increase public confidence in them.