




Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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**TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.47 pm): I want to begin by echoing the sentiments of the member for Hervey Bay. I do not think we can underestimate the impacts that this legislation is going to have on health outcomes in Queensland because it is putting in place some really fantastic social scaffolding and structures to encourage people to smoke less.

I want to start by declaring that one of the earliest memories of my young life was watching my mum on what was not a journey but a battle to give up smoking. I think it took her two or three attempts to give up smoking. I remember that she and her sister, who also smoked, gave up the day that cigarettes hit a whopping \$3 a packet, back in the early nineties. I remember her saying that it was too expensive, she was not going to pay it anymore, and she and Aunty Anne decided to give up. I remember the importance of having the social structures and the scaffolding in place because it was at that time that we were starting to see some really strong societal attitudes around smoking change.

One of the key things we will see out of this legislation is the continued moving away from making it easy for people to smoke. That is really important because when somebody is trying to give up smoking, they do not want to be reminded about what it is they are giving up, they certainly do not want to see other people smoking, and they also do not want to be around any of the other cues like alcohol, or alcohol and smoking spaces, that would encourage them to lose that willpower temporarily and to take up smoking again.

I want to acknowledge at the outset that it is a really hard thing to do. We are not going to encourage people to give up smoking by heaping blame or shame on them. It is a decision that every individual has to make for themselves. However, as a government and as a parliament we have to put the supports, scaffolding and social infrastructure in place to ensure that when they do make that decision that decision is well supported. That is exactly what the changes in this legislation do.

This bill builds on the Palaszczuk government's 2020 election commitment to strengthen our tobacco laws and increase smoke-free places across Queensland. Like the member for Miller, although I am a little bit younger I can remember going out in my late teens and early 20s and coming home reeking of cigarette smoke. I cannot believe people could still smoke indoors back then. It beggars belief that was allowed back then. People could smoke inside in pubs, in nightclubs—

**Ms Boyd:** In McDonald's too.

**Ms PUGH:** Yes, people could smoke anywhere, even indoor at Macca's, when I was a kid. It is crazy to think that was socially acceptable. However, as attitudes and community change, so does legislation.

In the past 25 years we have seen smoking rates drop thanks to concerted efforts across all kinds and all levels of government. It is important to note, as I mentioned earlier, a lot of the initiatives to discourage people from smoking, to discourage young people from taking it up or to encourage people to quit have not been punitive. They have been based around great quit programs. They have been

based around ensuring it is more difficult for people to smoke. To a certain extent we have had those education programs, but in this case those education programs will also partner with some rules around parents not being able to provide cigarettes to their children, and I will return to that in a moment.

This bill is responding to the emerging challenges in preventing young people from starting or continuing to smoke. We know there is a range of reasons why young people take up smoking including in many cases that they have seen normalised smoking behaviour and they have always had access to smoking products. Maybe that is due to a parent who leaves them lying around the house. Sometimes it is also because a parent actually purchases cigarettes for their child, and presently there is no penalty for that under Queensland law.

As I said, one of the most common ways that young people take up smoking is because they see others smoking, be that friends, family or other loved ones. In my family when I was growing up I had four aunts and uncles, and three of them smoked and so did my mother. That is an 80 per cent smoking rate in my mother's generation when I was a young person, which is well in excess of the current average. In cases like that it is not hard to imagine how young people would take up smoking. I never have—I want to put that on the record—because I promised my mother I never would.

**Mrs McMahon:** Good girl.

**Ms PUGH:** That's right, member for Macalister; I am a good girl. This bill is going to introduce measures to ensure young people do not take up this habit because we know it is a dangerous addiction; it is a life threatening addiction, as the Cancer Council will tell people. It also costs the Queensland community \$27.4 billion every year. We are going to act to expand smoke-free areas across Queensland. There is currently a ban in place relating to children's sport. If parents go and watch their kids play soccer on a Saturday they cannot light up. If their children are participating in organised outdoor activities like Girl Guides or Scouts, those same rules do not necessarily apply. We are going to make sure that they do, because Girl Guides and Scouts are, of course, entitled to the same protections as our netball, basketball and soccer players, who are about to start a great winter season right across Queensland, especially in the electorate of Mount Ommaney.

The bill also introduces smoke-free buffer zones around the perimeter of outdoor eating and drinking places and around designated outdoor smoking areas, or DOSAs. Under this legislation it will be an offence for a licensee to allow a minor to remain in a DOSA. Obviously we do not want young children imbibing second-hand smoke. That is one of the key challenges with smoking and it always has been. When people consume alcohol, for example, they are only impacting themselves. However, when a parent smokes around a child or in the home, even if the child is not there, that second-hand smoke can and does impact their children. We know that smoking while pregnant can lead to issues like low birth weights and other kinds of complications, so there are really compelling reasons for us to do everything we can to stamp out smoking.

Another provision that I think is really important, although it might sound minor to some members, is related to social triggers. When I think of the smokers I know when they are trying to give up the last thing they need is that social trigger to start again. It is really important that we are limiting the supply of smoking products at liquor licensed premises to service areas. When we look at the quit lit—the quitting resources that are available online—a lot of them mention alcohol being a trigger. When somebody goes to a licensed venue and they have a drink and they can see cigarettes for sale, for many smokers, especially people who would describe themselves as social smokers—and I know a fair few of those—it is a trigger. If we can stop those social smokers from easily accessing that packet, it may well stop them buying that packet of cigarettes and taking up the habit. That is really important because, as I said about my mum's story earlier, she had three goes at quitting smoking before she was successful. By putting these provisions in the legislation we are going to give people a real opportunity when it comes to that trigger point when they are consuming alcohol. When they are in that licensed premises they will not be able to access those cigarettes as easily. That may just make the difference for some smokers.

We have done so much work in this state over the last 20 to 25 years to reduce smoking and we know that one of the most effective measures has been reducing the areas where people can smoke while simultaneously changing social opinion. I am sure members of the House would remember the 'nobody smokes here anymore' ad where the smokers went outside to have their cigarette. Instead of it being the social, cool thing to do, they now felt they were a little bit isolated and a little bit lonely. It was not shaming the smokers. It was not talking down to them. It was just saying the world is changing and if they want to be social, smoking is not the way to do it anymore; it is about being inside where the fun is happening. I think provisions in the legislation like this really speak to the importance of those social expectations. I commend the bill to the House.