




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOPER

Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2023

**INFORMATION PRIVACY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL;
PUBLIC RECORDS BILL**

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (5.25 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cognate debate. I will be focusing my contribution on the Public Records Bill. I thought I would start with a short personal anecdote. I recently took out a subscription to ancestry.com looking for great exciting things in my past. Unfortunately, I have not uncovered too much, but what I have uncovered is the story of a great-great-aunt of mine. Some of the early records that I could see on her indicated that she had died from blood poisoning, which is fine. I later found articles about her that stated she had actually been injured earlier from an accidental gunshot. She had survived that, but that was the link to the blood poisoning. She had died as a result of blood poisoning as a result of the accidental gunshot. I then found another article which confirmed that it was her husband who was the one who accidentally shot her. While I am not finished looking at her story, already I am seeing flags that suggest what possibly could be domestic and family violence and that she had died through an act of domestic violence rather than blood poisoning.

I know it is a very sombre story, but I use it to highlight a couple of things. The first thing I want to highlight is that we like to think of our history as this really static and set thing, but it is not. It is actually quite dynamic and able to be reframed as we learn more about the history that we have lived through.

The second thing is that we as humans are hardwired to be curious and we want to know who we are, where we have come from, and the experiences that have shaped us and our families and our environment. For these reasons, our ability to identify, secure, manage and recall Queensland's records, including our public records, is critically important. This bill intends to establish a framework for making, managing and accessing public records in a way that benefits current and future governments for generations. In the introductory speech, the minister outlined the rationale behind this, including the changing expectations of community, but, principally, this bill is about justice and the recognition that comes when stories are uncovered, told or retold in a fuller way. It is also about truth. I am proud to be a member of a government that is committed to truth-telling here in Queensland, that we are brave enough as a government and brave enough as people to embark on a path that is going to at times be deeply uncomfortable and unforgettable, but one that will make a substantial contribution towards First Nations justice and one that will help all Queenslanders reframe the relationship we have with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters.

Clauses 1 to 4 of the bill introduces public records principles relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to enhance recognition of First Nations' rights through rules and administration, including the creation, management and keeping of these records. These principles include the knowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people gain from being the custodians of the land, sea, water, air and resources.

Debate, on motion of Ms Bush, adjourned.