




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2025

**TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (DISMANTLING ILLEGAL
TRADE) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

Second Reading

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (8.03 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Like many in this House, I grew up where many smoked. My grandfather courageously gave up smoking the day that I, as his first grandchild, was born. Sadly, my brother took up smoking during his university years, like many young people of this era. Thankfully, this was not a habit that I was attracted to. Having uncles who smoked, I witnessed the terrible ill health that they experienced as relatively young men, losing their lives also as young men.

As a society, we have made tremendous progress to address smoking and tobacco use against a very sophisticated campaign that ran for many years. Much acknowledgement should be directed to Dr Jeannette Young for her efforts to ensure smoke-free environments through her advocacy for tough antismoking laws, including supporting smoke-free public spaces like hospitals, schools and workplaces. We can all remember the times when smoking occurred in all of those places. She also made free nicotine replacement therapy available to vulnerable populations. During her tenure as Queensland's Chief Health Officer, she championed comprehensive antismoking initiatives that contributed to a reduced smoking rate in the state.

This bill will strengthen the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 and will assist in efforts to further decrease rates of smoking in Queensland and, of course, the number of preventable deaths and disease from smoking. The Labor opposition supports such measures, especially when we have experts backing reforms to improve Queenslanders' health.

This bill delivers a slate of measures, including: expanding short-term closure orders from 72 hours to three months and long-term closure orders from six months to 12 months; preventing businesses subject to a closure order from opening or selling goods or services; expanding seizure and forfeiture powers; creating a lessor offence for lessors who knowingly permit a premise to be used for the supply of illicit tobacco as well as civil penalty provisions; holding executive officers of corporations to account as having personally committed certain offences if they were committed by their corporation unless they can prove they did not know or could not have known about these illegal activities; improving enforcement activities, including controlled operations; and, finally, increasing information that is to be collected to improve operation of the act and other minor or technical amendments.

These measures assist in tackling the public health impacts of illicit tobacco and nicotine product sales; organised crime and public safety concerns around the sale of these products; the impacts of illicit tobacco sales on lessors; and the impacts of these sales on lawful businesses. Like so many other communities around the state, my community has suffered from the effect of illicit tobacco and vaping sales. Neighbouring shops have been broken into more than once to access the vape and illicit tobacco premise. Local neighbourhoods have been kept awake at night as a result of illicit tobacco crime and

our young people have been coerced by a clever vaping campaign. Many vape shops and illicit tobacco shops have popped up close to our schools, terrorising parents as they try to protect their children from addiction.

During our time in government, Labor took action to make substantial changes to the sale of illicit tobacco and the use of e-cigarettes. We introduced a licensing scheme, strong penalties for the supply of illicit smoking products and other enforcement measures via the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Act 2023. Labor supported all of the recommendations of the Health and Environment Committee's inquiry report *Vaping: an inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland*. During our time in government we actioned a significant body of work to address the scourge in vaping. We also initiated school-based programs and social media campaigns to educate young people on the harms of vaping, increased funding of \$22 million over five years to enhance enforcement activities, and introduced the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 to tackle the issues of vaping and illicit tobacco.

As a Labor opposition, we are proud of our contribution to the strong public health response that has seen a steady decline in smoking rates over the last 25 years. The Labor opposition will always back the continuity of this positive work, which is why we will support the bill. This especially applies to health measures backed by the experts in the field. We will always support the experts in the field. However, this does beg the question: why is the government not listening to experts in all of the other health related policy work? They have ignored experts on pill testing. They have ignored them on health care for young Queenslanders, playing politics with their lives—a decision which proved unlawful and was dismissed by the court.

Mr VORSTER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. During the course of this debate points of order have been raised on relevance where speakers have strayed—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): So your point of order is relevance, is it?

Mr VORSTER: That is right, from the long title of the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, if you could just direct your comments to the bill in front of us.

Ms McMILLAN: The Labor opposition will always listen to experts. We will always listen to the health experts particularly around what is impactful to our population health and our community health. What I was drawing conclusions about was the fact that in this instance the LNP is prepared to listen to experts, but there are other examples where the LNP is not and I plead with the LNP to be consistent around its messaging and to be consistent around its policy work so that all Queenslanders are shown dignity, respect and integrity. That is what they deserve. Regardless of their background and regardless of the choices they make, all Queenslanders—no matter where they live and what they choose to do, whether it be vaping, the use of illicit tobacco, tobacco, pill testing—

Mr VORSTER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance and consistency.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, I ask if you could keep your comments to the bill in front of us. Thank you.

Ms McMILLAN: Every Queenslander requires the dignity and the respect from government around their health issues and their health concerns. I commend the bill to the House.