



Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Nitrous Oxide Addiction

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.25 pm): I rise on behalf of families in my electorate who have raised concerns about their young adult children developing nitrous oxide addiction. When used heavily, this drug will cause permanent neurological damage so the person may appear like they have something like Parkinson's disease or multiple sclerosis. Heavy use also causes psychosis. The families who have approached me have watched their children develop these addictions in their teen years and subsequently develop psychosis which requires ongoing hospitalisation and care. It has impacted studies and efforts to enter the workforce.

This substance is used in the hospitality industry for whipping cream. It has been used recreationally for many years and is commonly referred to as 'nang' addiction. Until recently, most users obtained volumes of the gas from tiny canisters diverted from legitimate hospitality purposes. Sadly, we now have numerous businesses that are clearly creating products that are aimed at appealing to and addicting children.

I have permission from the Speaker to show this sample to the House, but I will not table it and it is not a prop. It has been approved for demonstration purposes. I found this less than 50 metres from the entrance of a local primary school. You can see the canisters are decorated to appeal to young people. Inside, the gas is flavoured to appeal to young people. Generally you can purchase these in the same places you can buy illegal vapes, such as convenience stores and tobacconists. Here is a list of the stores where you can buy it, but don't worry, if you cannot get to these stores, I will table also the 24/7 delivery businesses that exist in Brisbane. There are many of them. Of course, if you forget to go there, they will send you text messages reminding you to come along. In these text messages, there is absolutely no mention of this product being for catering purposes.

Tabled paper: Documents, undated, titled 'Fixed Shops Where NO2 Canisters Can be Purchased' and 'Delivery Service' [1281](#).

I have written to the health minister requesting that this product is regulated, perhaps using the models already available and rolled out in South Australia and Western Australia. The health minister replied that the current regulations are sufficient. Under current laws, this canister would satisfy packaging and labelling requirements because it includes a warning, but the warnings are tiny, whereas the marketing for kids is large.

What we have here is another example of a range of businesses that clearly do not give a damn about the damage they inflict on young people. In fact, that is their business model. Shame on all of those businesses. Clearly, our current laws are failing. We need to stop packaging and flavouring aimed at children. We need to stop the sale of these products to non-hospitality businesses and we need to stop home delivery services. I appeal to the minister: allow the health committee to hold an inquiry into this issue and provide guidance on legislative options. We can keep kids safe. I know that is what people in my community want. The Crisafulli LNP government said they would keep people safe. Well, here is an opportunity to do that.

Haven't they missed another opportunity to give us a chance to keep people safe when it comes to pill testing? Our committee could have easily looked into pill testing and reviewed pill testing. We know there are amendments coming. This parliament has been told it would be treated with accountability and transparency. It has been treated with disdain—absolute disdain.