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Tuesday, 16 January 2024

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TUESDAY, 16 JANUARY 2024

The Legislative Assembly met at 9:30am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Curtis Pitt, Mulgrave) read prayers and took the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting today on the land of Aboriginal people and pay my respects to elders past and present. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful custodianship of the land over countless generations. We are very fortunate in this country to have two of the world's oldest continuing living cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all now share.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION BILL 2022

Introduction

MEMBER Introduced a bill for an act to amend the TEXT. Read a first time.

Mr ANDREW (Mirani—) () (09:40):

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Mr Andrew: sample speech.

It takes courage to share one's personal story; it is vulnerable, raw and honest. To do so when that story includes experiences of pain, grief, fear, anger and, as some have said, shame takes even greater courage. I thank those who did so as part of the bill and earlier inquiry and I thank the many who have shared personal stories with me. I honour those voices, as our government does by bringing forward this legislation. I thank the members across this House who will support this important reform for doing likewise.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting workers because we all have a right to come home safe and healthy at the end of every working day. October is Safe Work Month and the spotlight is firmly on safety and wellbeing in the workplace. Right across Queensland my department is hosting events including free support sessions on the Gold Coast and at Toowoomba, Townsville, Cairns, Rockhampton

and Mackay. There is also an online speaker series featuring safety advocates such as Maroons legend Kevin Walters and Supercars presenter Riana Crehan, whose dad was seriously injured in a workplace accident.

In particular, I want to acknowledge the Cohesive Communities Coalition and particularly Christine Castley and Rita Jabri Markwell, who are in the gallery today, as co-chairs of the coalition for their fearless and impassioned advocacy to see these reforms delivered. As the attorney-general said at introduction, these reforms are the direct result of the hard work and advocacy of multicultural community members and stakeholders from across Queensland. These reforms are yours and, while I wish they were not needed, I am honoured to have played a small part in bringing them about so that all in our community may feel safe, seen and valued. Of course, these laws will protect not only our multicultural community but also our LGBTIQ plus community. I acknowledge the many stakeholders and advocates who have equally called for these reforms from that community.

While the list is long, I want to read into *Hansard* the names of a number of dedicated stakeholders in acknowledgement of their contribution and input into this reform. Once passed, it will mean we have among the strongest frame works in the country. They are: Multicultural Australia, Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council, Queensland Law Society, Caxton Legal Centre, Legal Aid Queensland, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, LGBTI Legal Service, Settlement Services International Limited, Queensland Human Rights Commission, Access Community Services, Queensland Chinese Forum, Queensland Chinese United Council, Australian Muslim Advocacy Network, Queensland Council for LGBTI Health, Equality Australia, Queensland African Communities Council, Scarlet Alliance Australian Sex Workers Association, Respect Inc, Hindu Council of Australia, Islamic Council of Queensland, Islamic College of Brisbane, Islamic Society of Gold Coast, Islamic Women's Association of Australia, White Ribbon Australia, Gold Coast Sikh Association, Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland, Sikh Nishkam Society of Australia, Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, Rainbow Families Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, Queensland Jewish Community Services Inc., Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies, Pacific Islands Council of Queensland and Queensland Council for Civil Liberties.

I make particular mention of my Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council, made up of eleven amazing humans with a myriad of life experiences as culturally and linguistically diverse Queenslanders. When we had our first meeting in 2021, I asked them what they would like to achieve during their time on the council. Having a much greater input into government process was at the top of their list. Shortly after submissions opened for the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's initial inquiry into serious vilification and hate crime, they jumped at the opportunity to make a submission. It was a pleasure to write the forward to that submission. I was then so proud to see some MQAC members given the opportunity to appear before the Committee.

I have taken a quote from their submission that sums up perfectly the importance of this bill and what it means to those in our community who are subject to serious vilification and hate crime. It states -

While the Council is aware that racism cannot be tackled through legislative reform alone, it believes that strengthening the protections against serious vilification and

hate speech represents a necessary and important step in making justice for its victims accessible and worthwhile. 4\

I would also like to thank those officers who worked on the development of the bill, including Ernest Lin, Adam Savage, Jemma Golding-Wallace, Michael Shears, Adele Bogard and Justin O'May. I once again thank all honourable members for their thoughtful and respectful considerations during the debate.

I conclude with a quote that featured in the foreword of the inquiry report by my friend and colleague the member for Toohey's and in his speech on this bill. He quoted Dr Martin Luther King who said -

It may be true that morality cannot be legislated but behaviour can be regulated. It may be true that the law cannot change the heart but it can restrain the heartless. 4\

I thank the member for Toohey for his leadership. I thank the member for Toohey for his passion in regard to this bill. I thank all members of his committee for the report that they produced in both occurrences. The law is a powerful instrument for social change and in that vein I commend the bill to the House.

Clauses 1 to 6, as read, agreed to.

Clause 7 -

Mrs GERBER (17:45): I rise to speak to clause 7 and, in particular, subclause (3), which is the clause that relocates section 131A from the Anti-Discrimination Act to the Criminal Code. I raised this in my contribution to the debate and I thank the minister for her comprehensive reply. However, there are a couple of aspects that I would like clarified in relation to the relocation of that section into the Criminal Code.

The minister foreshadowed the work that will be done in the *Building belonging* report in order to expand the protected attributes currently in the Anti-Discrimination Act but now to be moved into the Criminal Code. I understand that the minister has said that work will be done to expand those protected attributes, but I would like some further clarification that the *Building belonging* report will actually cover the Criminal Code because, as it stands at the moment, it relates to the Anti-Discrimination Act. As that section is to be relocated to the Criminal Code I would like that clarified.

In relation to expanding protected attributes, during the inquiry it was raised - and I raised this in my speech - that disability is a particular attribute that needs to be protected. People who are affected with a disability and people who have an impairment are often subjected not just to discrimination; we heard evidence that they are subjected to hate crimes and vilification. It is really important that the protected attributes be expanded to cover that.

I understand that in her reply the minister indicated that the committee's recommendation will be accepted and looked at as part of the *Building belonging* report, but I am concerned that the work should have been done now. I would like to understand why the work to expand the protected attributes was not done now. I appreciate and I am grateful that the bill before about the House expands the criminality in relation to vilification and hate crimes. It allows for there to be a circumstance of aggravation on existing offences and it allows for a new criminal offence in relation to hate symbols. The work in relation to protected attributes should have been done in now to allow for those offences to be prosecuted should those offences occur against, for instance, a person with a disability or an impairment. I would like to better understand why that work was not done now. If the work is to be done in the *Building belonging* report, will it extend to the Criminal Code and, in fact,

will protected attributes be expanded to particularly include people with a disability or impairment?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for her questions and also her acknowledgement that, in my response to members' contributions, I did talk about this issue. I want to reiterate a few points there. In our response to the *lac*, we did indicate that we support the consideration of the possible inclusion of additional attributes, as the member indicated, as part of the review of the Anti-Discrimination Act. I think it is important to mention that doing that through that format will ensure a cohesive approach across the entirety of vilification and hate crime legislation, the proposed new anti-discrimination act as well as Queensland's wider legislative context. Of course, when there is a new anti-discrimination act - and we have previously committed to introducing legislation in response to the Queensland Human Rights Commission report, *Building belonging: review of Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Act* within the current term of government - that new anti-discrimination act will cover additional attributes-TEST-PART-PUBLISHED-AFTER-TURN-1.

POLICE LEGISLATION (EFFICIENCIES AND EFFECTIVENESS) AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Hon BAILEY (Miller—) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12:31): Video provides a powerful way to help you prove your point. When you click Online Video, you can paste in the embed code for the video you want to add. You can also type a keyword to search online for the video that best fits your document.

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MS BATES (Mudgeeraba—) (Shadow Minister for Medical Research, Shadow Minister for Women, Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12:35): Video provides a powerful way to help you prove your point. When you click Online Video, you can paste in the embed code for the video you want to add. You can also type a keyword to search online for the video that best fits your document.

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Mr SPEAKER: Save time in Word with new buttons that show up where you need them. To change the way a picture fits in your document, click it and a button for layout options appears next to it. When you work on a table, click where you want to add a row or a column, and then click the plus sign.

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