




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ALBERT

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2016

EDUCATION, TOURISM, INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (11.50 am): I also want to speak to the committee's report on its inquiry into smoking and tobacco use at universities, technical and further education facilities and registered training organisations. I want to thank my fellow committee members. I thank the chair, the member for Townsville, and the former deputy chair, the member for Cleveland, and all other committee members who participated in this interesting inquiry. I also thank the committee staff and the secretariat for their fantastic efforts in obtaining information and putting this report together.

It is a very interesting issue as to why individuals take up a habit which has adverse health effects and potentially causes cancers for them and also for those individuals around them who unfortunately inhale passive smoke. We were very grateful that the universities came out and expressed their opinions. Some of their opinions may have varied only marginally, which leads me to wonder why our universities in Queensland cannot do the same thing that the universities in Victoria and Western Australia have done—that is, have a collaborative approach amongst themselves to sort out the issue which therefore means that regulations do not need to be put in. That is why the opposition members felt it was prudent to give the universities the time to sort this matter out themselves.

As a former Griffith University student, I certainly visited the Nathan campus on many occasions. That campus is in an area which is surrounded by bushland. One of my main concerns is whether individuals would decide to risk smoking in that bushland if there were not appropriate facilities and the education to deal with smoking on campus. It is certainly something that I personally saw when I was at the university. When you were walking along the paths, you would see a cigarette butt go flying onto the path or almost land in the leaf litter.

As I just stated, the opposition members feel that there should be self-regulation and that we should give them ample time to put these regulations in. That would mean that the state would not need to come in with a hammer approach and say, 'This is what you will be doing.' If they can do it in Victoria and Western Australia, surely all of the universities in Queensland can come together and say, 'This is what we will be doing.'

Our universities have an absolutely fantastic reputation around the world. We want to ensure that that reputation is held high and that international students see Australia as a place to come to learn and study. We need to ensure that these international students who come over understand our rules and regulations and understand that we deem passive smoking to be a potential health risk. Through education, I feel this is something we can certainly make massive inroads in. Again, I would like to thank my fellow committee members and the secretariat staff for all their input and knowledge. We can certainly progress this matter.