



Speech By
Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 7 May 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Substance Abuse; Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.24 pm): I rise to draw the attention of the House to the growing public health issue of substance misuse, abuse and dependency. Honourable members would be aware of the significant health costs of alcohol and tobacco consumption in terms of morbidity and mortality to various communities including my own but also right across Queensland—costs in terms of physical complications and psychological problems. However, what I want to highlight are the issues related to illicit drugs, over-the-counter codeine and prescription drugs, and synthetic drugs.

In this place in the 55th Parliament we have heard about how crystalline methamphetamine, also known as 'ice', is tearing apart communities and families, and destroying individuals. The announced National Ice Taskforce is an important development, but in Queensland we will need to implement practical strategies. Not only are illegal amphetamines problematic; we have other illicit drugs including cannabis, heroin, cocaine and other drugs such as gamma hydroxybutyrate, otherwise known as 'fantasy'.

There are physical, psychological and social consequences—physical things like arrhythmia, stroke, heart failure and kidney failure. If these people are injecting, then they can suffer things like bacteraemia, septicaemia, abscesses and, in a worst-case scenario, cardiorespiratory arrest. There are psychological complications including mood disorders, depression, anxiety and psychosis in relation to amphetamines. There are also social consequences including relationship breakdown, accidents, loss of employment and loss of economic productivity.

In relation to over-the-counter codeine-containing medications and prescription medications, we are seeing an increase in prevalence of dependency conditions and also physical problems such as peptic ulceration and kidney failure. With synthetic drugs, which are illegally manufactured to mimic the effects of illicit drugs, we are seeing presentations at emergency departments of patients with violent outbursts, irrational fears, mood swings, psychosis, arrhythmias and signs of neurological disorders.

In recent times I was pleased to partner with the Queensland Police Service on the 'Stop the Damage' campaign in relation to synthetic drugs and their associated harms. What all this means is that we need a further significant investment in alcohol and drug treatment services, as well as public and population health education campaigns and harm minimisation strategies in Queensland.

In my remaining time I wish to highlight two other issues. Following the recent torrential rain and water releases, my electorate of Moggill has, once again, seen the closure of Colleges Crossing. The disruption to local residents in Mount Crosby, Karana Downs and Lake Manchester necessitates a permanent solution following appropriate community consultation.

Finally, the biggest series of community events for the past few weeks has been those activities surrounding the centenary of the Anzac landings at Gallipoli. I would like to acknowledge and thank my local Kenmore-Moggill RSL sub-branch for the work they put into organising many local services. The contribution made by many local community groups, schools and volunteers also ensured a successful day. It was a terrific success—well done to all.