

The following Bills are listed for debate and passage at the February sittings of the Legislative Assembly (23 February-4 March 1993).

HEALTH PRACTITIONERS AND ALLIED PROFESSIONALS REGISTRATION AMENDMENT (Serial 180)

This Bill removed the Registration Boards in dietetics, naturopathy, speech pathology and social work, effectively deregulating those occupations. The Bill is part of an Australia-wide attempt to bring the categories of regulated and deregulated occupations into line.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT (NO 3) (Serial 189)

Following a suggestion from Shadow Attorney-General Neil Bell, this Bill inserts the offence of possession of child pornography in the *Code*, instead of the *Classifications of Publications and Films Act*. Possession of films, photographs (including photocopies) of persons under 16 engaged in sexual activity will be an offence punishable by up to two years imprisonment. There are a number of defences.

TERRITORY INSURANCE OFFICE AMENDMENT (NO 2) (Serial 186)

This Bill is part of a general move to "corporatise" the TIO. Under the Bill, the TIO Board will have to prepare a Statement of Corporate Intent every year for the following three financial years. Failure to declare a conflict of interest will attract a penalty of up to \$75,000 or 10 years imprisonment. A general duty to disclose interests, and a Register of such interests, are created. The TIO is to consider itself bound by the accounting and reporting conditions of the Corporations Law.

FIREARMS ACT AMENDMENT (Serial 192)

A tidying up of details left over from the passage of new firearms legislation last year. Anomalies pointed out by the Opposition in debate have

NOTES FROM PARLIAMENT

by GREG ROCHE

been addressed. The new Act protects medical practitioners from civil and criminal liability if they report a patient whom they consider not to be a fit and proper person to hold a firearms licence. This protection is now extended to psychologists.

PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT AND MANAGEMENT (Serial 193) and PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT AND MANAGEMENT (TRANSITION AND SAVINGS) (Serial 198)

The major Bill of the sittings. The Bill replaces the Public Service Commissioner with a Commissioner for Public Employment who will have reduced powers and be confined to the setting of standards and procedures. Most decisions about hiring and firing etc will now be undertaken by the Chief Executive Officers of departments. CEOs will also have a wide range of discretionary disciplinary powers, subject to appeal to a Disciplinary Appeal Board. Certain agencies, such as the DPP and Legal Aid, will remain outside the new Commissioner for Public Employment's jurisdiction. A Public Sector Consultative Council is established.

STATUTE LAW REVISION (NO 2) (Serial 191)

Government housekeeping Bill with such gems as changing the words "city or town" in Schedule 1 of the *Justice of the Peace Act* to "municipality." One for the buffs.

TERRITORY INSURANCE OFFICE AMENDMENT (NO 3) (Serial 196)

MACA now has a reserve (after allowing for all claims) of \$22,000,000. The Bill allows the TIO to spend

some of this undistributed reserve (colloquially known as profits) on road safety.

WORK HEALTH AMENDMENT (NO 2) (Serial 197)

Under this Bill the Occupational Health and Safety provisions of the Work Health Act (Part IV) will not apply to mines, or any work or service performed at one.

MT TODD PROJECT RATIFICATION (Serial 199)

The purpose of the Bill is contained in the title. The agreement between the Territory and Zapopan NL forms the Schedule to the Bill. The Bill purports to give effect to the agreement "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Act or law in force in the Territory." The Schedule commits the Territory to grant a mining lease, together with all necessary leases, easements and rights of way, and supply electricity for the project. Zapopan can also deduct \$4.3M in costs from royalties due and payable in the first year. Zapopan has to abide by the EIS and use its best endeavours to employ local staff.

UNIT TITLES AMENDMENT (Serial 200)

The Amendment inserts a dispute resolution procedure in the Act. Disputes will now be heard in the Local Court. The Court's powers to deal with disputes are set out in the Bill. Corporations or committees cannot authorise excessive improvements.