

SUMMARY OFFENCES (TATTOOING, BODY PIERCING AND BODY MODIFICATION) AMENDMENT BILL – 4 May 2011

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (17:47): I just wish to make a few brief comments re the Summary Offences (Tattooing, Body Piercing and Body Modification) Amendment Bill 2011. I certainly support the comments made by the member for Bragg, the contribution made by the member for Chaffey and the contribution made by the member for Adelaide.

For the life of me at times, and call me old-fashioned, I cannot understand some of the body piercings that people do, especially the facial piercings that are obvious to everyone when you see people getting around in the public arena. I do not think that there is not too much space left on a person's face that has not been played around with. You see pierced cheeks, studs in the nose and studs in the forehead, near the eyes and around the mouth. It is just incredible. To me, it does not do anything for a person at all; and, certainly, some of the intimate piercings that people have I fail to understand as well.

I note the member for Adelaide's comments that she has just made in the house, and I wonder whether people really do understand what they are getting into with tattooing. Recently, just after Christmas, I was on leave in Western Australia, and certainly over there it is very popular to have the full arm tattoo on one side of the body. You see it on a lot of AFL footballers. It might be a trend at the time, but it is a bit like the lady on the Circulon frypan ad—it is a decision you may regret later in life. I was discussing with the member for Chaffey the splitting of the tongue, and I just cannot comprehend why you would go down that path. So I do applaud that there will be some more safeguards in place.

I have an interesting little story for the house about when I was going out with Sally before she became my wife. She went on a trip to Bali, and when she came back we were out with a few friends and someone noticed, when she lifted her shirt, that on her lower torso she had a tattoo with 'Adrian' written on it. One of my friends said, 'Well, you're stuffed now, you're going to have to marry her.' I still married her, but it was only a henna tattoo. So, at this stage it would not have hurt if it was permanent.

However, people do make those decisions. They might have a certain member of the opposite sex that they are in love with at the time, and they may have their name tattooed over their heart, on their chest, or on their arm, and all of a sudden down the track things change. I guess that is something people certainly need to take into consideration. Certainly, with tattooing these are things for life. These are tattoos for life, and people need to be very aware and, as member for Chaffey indicated, they need to be educated on all the risks, whether it is body scarification, whether it is tattooing, or whether it is having piercings put in the body.

Really, I just think people have got money to burn if they want to do one of these practices, but we live in a free society. I agree with members on this side that the proposed police powers are over the top, and I am sure there will be questions asked during the committee stage and also in the upper house. With those few comments, I will leave that as my contribution.