

ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DISQUALIFICATION FOR LIFE) BILL 2016

418. Mr R.F. JOHNSON to the Minister for Road Safety:

There is no commitment there at all. I have a supplementary question. Given that the Liberal Party met yesterday and had ample time to discuss these very simple amendments, plus the fact that the Labor Party has given its unconditional support and has offered its own time during private members' time to debate and pass this bill, can the minister explain to this house, in front of these two brave young ladies, why she is refusing to support a measure that could save countless lives on our roads?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I draw the attention of the house to a number of initiatives that I have put in place as Minister for Police. One is the alcohol interlock program. Should any driver convicted of a serious drink-driving offence—an in excess of .15 offence, a more serious offence in which injury or death has been involved, or a second drink-driving offence—ever be issued with a driver's licence by the courts or by the Department of Transport, they will have to have an alcohol interlock device fitted. Those devices absolutely interrupt the drink-driving behaviour of recidivist offenders who drive while under the influence of alcohol; they help to break that link between drinking and driving and prevent those people from driving should they have consumed alcohol. That will be operational in the near future, and will have a significant impact in ensuring that we can get those drivers off our roads.

With respect to the legislation, the responsibility of government is to ensure that legislation that passes through this place works, and that it intersects —

Mr R.F. Johnson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Hillarys, let the minister answer.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It is important that legislation that passes through this place be workable, and, as is often the case, work in with other pieces of legislation to ensure that the intent we are trying to achieve is right. We are giving the member for Hillarys' bill careful consideration. We absolutely understand the intent, but I will not be responsible for supporting legislation that goes through this place and does not achieve its intent or its purpose. We will give it due consideration and make sure that legislation we pass through this place does not have hidden flaws that cause problems for individuals in our community and does not achieve its intent.