

ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DISQUALIFICATION FOR LIFE) BILL 2016

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

Can I just acknowledge the presence in the Speaker's gallery of Catherine and Michelle Roberts, the daughters of Martin Roberts, who was tragically killed by a drunk driver last year. Given that alcohol, along with drugs, is one of the main causes of deaths on Western Australian roads, will the minister and the Liberal Party support the private member's bill that I introduced to the house last week that would see drink and drug drivers who are convicted of killing an innocent person on our roads lose their driver's licence for life; and, if not, why not?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Hillarys for the question and I acknowledge the presence of the Martin girls in the gallery. Their father was an integral member of —

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Their name is Roberts, not Martin.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Sorry; Martin Roberts. Thank you.

Martin was a wonderful person and he was a very big part of the Innaloo Sportsmen's Club, a club that I have a great deal to do with. Martin himself was responsible for ensuring that people got home safely from that club if they had had too much to drink. That was pretty much his commitment to that community. He is a very big loss to our community.

With respect to the legislation, member for Hillarys, we are assessing it at the moment. It looks to me as though there are some significant flaws in that legislation. We absolutely acknowledge the intent that the member is trying to achieve, but as to whether we can support it in its current form, we have not made a decision at this point in time. I am receiving advice from the State Solicitor's Office. When it is brought up for debate during private members' time, if we need to amend that legislation to make it workable, we will speak to the member about that at that time. Obviously, it will be debated thoroughly in due course in this place.