

the remedy of tales; or the panel may be discharged and a further jury precept issued.

An incident occurred last year where a person who served as a juror in a lengthy trial was dismissed from her employment after the conclusion of the trial. The employer had made it clear during the course of the trial that he was dissatisfied with his employee being empanelled on the jury. While it was established that the employee was not dismissed as a result of her performing jury duty, presently a judge can take no action in this type of situation. At most, proceedings for contempt of court may be able to be brought against an employer. It is a pretty poor set of circumstances when people who are summoned to carry out jury duty lose their employment as a result. The proposed amendment seeks to discourage such action by employers by making it an offence, subject to penalty, for an employer to dismiss or prejudice the employment of an employee because of jury service. A similar provision exists in the relevant legislation in New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and Queensland.

The bill amends schedule 7 of the Juries Act to exempt from jury service employees within the meaning of the Public Service Act with the Department of Correctional Services, the Office of Courts Administration, the Legal Aid Commission or under the direct control of the Commissioner of Police. These exemptions are considered appropriate given the involvement of these persons in the criminal justice system. The amendment to schedule 7 also exempts persons from jury service who are exempted by the Commonwealth Jury Exemption Act 1965. There is some question as to whether the Commonwealth Act is within power and, given this uncertainty, it is appropriate that the Juries Act be amended to specifically exempt from jury service those persons exempted under the Commonwealth Act. New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory have also referred specifically to the Commonwealth act in the exemption provisions of their respective jury acts. I commend the bill to honourable members.

Debate adjourned.

DISCHARGE OF ITEM FROM NOTICE PAPER

Mr STONE (Public Employment): Mr Speaker, I move that Government Business Order of the Day No 17, relating to the Anti-Discrimination Draft Bill be discharged from the Notice Paper.

Motion agreed to.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILL (Serial 188)

Bill presented and read a first time.

Mr STONE (Public Employment): Mr Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a second time.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that, after a considerable period of community consultation spanning more than 2 years, I now introduce this very important piece of legislation to the Legislative Assembly. The aim of the legislation is to promote equality of opportunity in the Territory by protecting persons from unfair discrimination. Legislation is often the embodiment of principles deemed by our society to be important. For example, our community finds the abuse of children unacceptable and therefore this Assembly has enacted provisions relating to that in both the