

Madam Speaker Aagaard took the Chair at 10 am.

VISITORS

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I draw your attention to the presence in the gallery of Year 4/5 Gray Primary School students, accompanied by Ms Keira Stewart. On behalf of honourable members I extend to you a very warm welcome.

Members: Hear, hear!

BUSINESS NAMES (NATIONAL UNIFORM LEGISLATION) IMPLEMENTATION BILL (Serial 199)

Bill presented and read a first time.

Mr KNIGHT (Justice and Attorney-General): Madam Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a second time.

As members will recall, on 2 July 2009 all Australian governments signed the Intergovernmental Agreement for Business Names agreeing to the establishment of a single national scheme for the registration and regulation of business names. This new national scheme is to be administered by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission, ASIC, and is currently scheduled to commence on 28 May 2012.

On 20 October 2011, this parliament passed the *Business Names (National Uniform Legislation) Request Act 2011*. This act, which commenced on 21 December 2011, was the first step in the Northern Territory's process for transferring the responsibility for regulating NT business names to the Commonwealth. This bill is the second and final step. It repeals the *Business Names Act* and makes necessary provisions for transitional matters and consequential amendments.

In particular, the bill provides for the migration of data to the Commonwealth prior to the changeover date; repeals the NT's *Business Names Act* as at the changeover date which is the date when the Commonwealth legislation starts; makes provision for various transitional matters, particularly with respect to how outstanding matters occur or are being dealt with prior to the changeover date after progressing thereafter; and provides that the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs must notify the Commonwealth ASIC that certain outstanding matters are to be held on the Commonwealth's Business Names Registration until they are finally dealt with in the Northern Territory. This ensures that the Commonwealth does not deal with these matters until they are

finalised in the Northern Territory. It also safeguards the relevant NT business name for that outstanding matter and, last, amends the NT legislation where reference to the repealed *Business Names Act* appears and serves the appropriate references to the new Commonwealth legislation.

This bill is consistent with similar bills introduced into other jurisdictions and has been developed in consultation with the Commonwealth and other relevant delegates for the Northern Territory Commissioner of Consumer Affairs who has the responsibility for the *Business Names Act*.

I commend the bill to honourable members and table the explanatory statement.

Debate adjourned.

WORKERS REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (Serial 200)

Bill presented and read a first time.

Mr KNIGHT (Justice and Attorney-General): Madam Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a second time.

The Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Legislation Amendment Bill 2012, the bill, amends the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act*, the act, which governs the Northern Territory workers compensation scheme. The scheme is a pension-based scheme which is privately underwritten. The act is beneficial legislation, designed to assist injured workers, amongst the most vulnerable of all workers.

The bill seeks to improve the operational efficiency of the act, and specifically the workers compensation scheme itself. The bill will amend:

1. the definition of worker to remove references to the Australian Business Number;
2. section 65B to allow access to compensation by injured workers who reside overseas;
3. section 65 of the act to reflect the Commonwealth government's decision to increase the qualifying age for the age pension to allow fairer access to compensation by older workers who are injured;
4. section 49 to provide certainty of the types of benefits that can be taken into account in calculating a worker's