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MEDIA RELEASE

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INDEPENDENT CONTINUES SCRUTINY OF GOVERNMENT BILLS

Independent MLC Ann Bressington has today successfully amended two Government Bills, demonstrating the value of Independent Members in the Legislative Council.

Ann's amendment to the Government's *Controlled Substances (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2010*, which was supported by both major parties and cross benchers, ensured that those who deal cannabis in licensed venues and entertainment venues would also be subject to the increased penalties proposed by the Government for dealers of other drugs.

In speaking to the Bill, Ann stated:

"Despite the overwhelming scientific evidence that cannabis is a harmful drug associated with the onset of schizophrenia and other mental health conditions, the Labor government, in a flashback to the now defunct Woodstock philosophy that cannabis is not a harmful drug, has ignored the harms caused to young people and again ignored the science and medicine."

Ann's other amendment, which was to the Government's *Statutes Amendment (Driving Offences) Bill 2010*, sought to preserve the presumption of innocence for passengers of a motor vehicle involved in a street race. The amendment was endorsed by the SA Law Society and the President of the Australian's Lawyer Alliance. To read the Hansard of Ann's contribution to the Bill, click [here](#).

This follows on the back of a productive year for Ann in 2009, in which she is believed to have successfully moved the most amendments to Government Bills of all the crossbenchers.

For further information, please contact Ann Bressington directly on 0448 887 277