

**Legislative Council**

**Wednesday, 18 May 2011, Page 2916**

**CORONERS (REPORTABLE DEATH) AMENDMENT BILL**

**The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON (21:41):**

I rise to indicate my support for the Coroners (Reportable Death) Amendment Bill 2010. In doing so, I congratulate the member for Davenport for bringing this issue to the parliament's attention and for attracting government support for this bill. I struggle to recall another bill that originated in the other place by a non-government member that managed to find its way here to us. I had feared that the government had forgotten that it was possible to cooperate with crossbench and opposition members. Maybe there is hope for this parliament yet.

The bill before us seeks to amend the Coroners Act 2003 to allow the Coroner to recognise an authorisation for release or disposal of the remains of a South Australian who has died interstate and the associated report, whether this be following an inquest or not. Currently our Coroner must also prepare a report, creating unnecessary and inefficient duplication. This also results in unnecessary delays in the release of the deceased person and, as the South Australian Division of the Australian Funeral Directors Association has argued, this delay needlessly prolongs the grief of the deceased's family.

Following amendment in the other place, the Coroner will, however, retain the discretion of assuming jurisdiction if the Coroner chooses. It is my understanding that this bill will bring us into line with interstate jurisdictions that long ago recognised the unnecessary duplication. As has been raised, the delays experienced at the Coroner's Court have been steadily rising, and it is my hope that this bill will go towards addressing this. It has my full support.