

002 ~~The legal concerns embodied in this bill and its supporting documents are critical. The need to comprehensively consider the handling of these various examinations is fundamental to community confidence in the judiciary. However, at the foundation of these incidents is a young woman, then a young girl, appallingly abused, who has not been afforded justice to date. She along with others at this place deserve justice, accountability and closure, if indeed that is possible. A full, unfettered and open commission of inquiry is the one avenue remaining to give her and others directly involved justice and peace. Individuals like Mr Lindeberg, who has tenaciously followed his belief that justice has not been done for her and that those who were responsible for the administration of justice have not been held to account, are to be thanked. The people of Queensland, many of whose concerns have not been assuaged, equally need to know that this parliament is accountable for justice in this state. I commend the bill to the House.~~→

First Reading

~~Mrs CUNNINGHAM (Gladstone Ind) (2.40 pm): I move~~

~~That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~

~~Bill read a first time.~~

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

~~Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.~~

<CHILD PROTECTION (FURTHER REPORTABLE OBLIGATIONS) AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

Mr JUDGE (Yeerongpilly—Ind) (2.40 pm): <I present a bill for an act to amend the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 to provide for risk assessment orders and further reporting obligations to reduce the likelihood of reportable offenders re-offending and the Criminal Code to amend s 207A, definition material. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Child Protection (Further Reportable Obligations) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014.

Tabled paper: Child Protection (Further Reportable Obligations) and Another Act Amendment Bill, explanatory notes.

I table additional research relevant to the bill. This includes a report by the Victorian Law Reform Commission titled *Sex offender registration* as well as a research paper by Queensland University of Technology student Celina Lidstone examining the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004, among other legislation applicable to child-sex offenders in Queensland.

Tabled paper: Victorian Law Reform Commission: Sex Offenders Registration, final report.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'JSB305: Professional Placement, Project: To examine the effectiveness of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 and other legislation application to child sex offenders in Queensland'.

Regarding the proposed amendments to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act, the ultimate policy objective of the bill is to strengthen the primary object of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act as stated in section 3 of the said act by introducing evidence based measures to reduce the likelihood that reportable offenders will reoffend. To this end, the bill proposes to insert a new division 11 under existing part 4 of the current legislation. The new division will allow the Police Commissioner to apply to a court for a risk assessment order to require that a particular reportable offender be subject to an examination by a government psychiatrist. This will enable the government psychiatrist to assess whether any particular reportable offender has a concerning propensity to reoffend and, as applicable, to recommend treatment to reduce the likelihood that they will reoffend. Subject to the outcome of the described assessment, the court may order that the particular reportable offender participate in prescribed treatment. Significantly, the court may also order that the particular reportable offender's reporting period be extended for up to five years if deemed necessary to protect the sexual safety of children.

Regarding the proposed amendment to the Criminal Code, the policy objective of the bill is to expand the definition of 'material' under section 207A to include an inanimate object. The bill contains an example of the expanded term 'material' in the form of a child-like sex doll, as relevant to a recent case in New South Wales involving a male person charged with possessing a sex doll in the shape of a teenage girl. Significantly, the defendant's lawyer has argued that the legal definition of 'child abuse material' needs to be expanded. I table the media report about the matter relevant to the bill.

The bill accordingly proposes to update Queensland's legislation to ensure that our state's laws remain contemporary. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

On the 4th of June this year the Government's Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Bill 2014 was passed. In the introduction speech the Police Minister stated that the bill standardises the current reporting periods under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 to five years for an initial offence, 10 years for a subsequent offence and life for any future offending, directly targeting recidivist offending.

The Police Minister further stated that whilst these times are slightly lower than the current periods, contemporary research indicates that sex offenders are at the greatest risk of reoffending within the first three to five years of their release into the community.

This assertion is evidently based on a common misconception that child sex offenders are a homogenous group. Notably, information contained in the recent Victorian Law Reform Commission report titled 'Sex Offender Registration' highlights the theoretical and policy dangers of seeing sex offenders as a homogenous and coherent group, when in fact the evidence suggests this is not the case.

The truth of the matter is that we require a more sophisticated response to effectively manage the diverse group of offenders being managed under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004.

This Bill along with the accompanying research and additional information supplied with it underpins and justifies the proposed amendments to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 and the Criminal Code for particular purposes.

To be clear the Victorian Law Reform Commission's report titled 'Sex Offender Registration' (2012, 52-53) asserts the greatest predictors for re-offending are for those offenders that start committing crime at an early age, have ongoing deviant sexual preferences, an extensive record of sexual offending, engaged in an array of sexual offences, and offend against male child victims. Such factors must be taken into consideration under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 which is essentially designed:

- (a) To reduce the likelihood that they will re-offend; and
- (b) To facilitate the investigation and prosecution of any future offences that they may commit. >

First Reading

Mr JUDGE (Yeerongpilly—Ind) (2.43 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Cunningham): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

~~MEMBERS' STATEMENTS~~

~~<Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia; Keane, Ms M~~

~~**Mr WOODFORTH** (Nudgee—LNP) (2.44 pm): Alzheimer's/dementia is an insidious disease, and unfortunately a new case of dementia is reported every six minutes in Australia. That figure is only getting worse. I unfortunately know all too much about this disease. At 72 years young, it took my mum's life just one month ago after a 10-year battle. Dementia is more than just losing your memory; there are mood swings and sufferers doing things that are just plain out of character. I know this all too well now, looking back at how Mum changed in those early years.~~

~~We wonder what could cause such a disease—a disease that damages the brain resulting in impaired memory, thinking and behaviour. I wonder whether it is perhaps a combination of the neurotoxins that are more and more put into our food, our water, our teeth, our arms and the air. It is~~