

Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025

Statement about exceptional circumstances

Prepared in accordance with part 3 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*

In accordance with section 44 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HR Act), I, Dan Purdie MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services make this statement about exceptional circumstances with respect to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025 (the Bill).

The Bill proposes amendments to the *Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004* to allow for the disclosure or publication of information relating to particular reportable offenders in particular circumstances through the operation of a public child sex offender register under new part 5AA. The Bill includes new section 74AN which provides that the HR Act does not apply to the provisions under new part 5AA, other than division 3 and section 74AN.

The Government acknowledges that some members of the community may consider that these provisions are incompatible with human rights. Therefore, in this exceptional case, the HR Act is being overridden and its application is entirely excluded from the operation of these new provisions to ensure the effective operation of Queensland's new public child sex offender register. The Government has made a firm commitment to establish a public child sex offender register to safeguard children by empowering the community—and, in particular, families—to take protective actions in the best interests of children (consistent with section 26(2) of the HR Act). The Government is motivated by the paramount importance of protecting children from the devastating and lifelong harm which results from sexual offending.

In the Government's view, there is a child safety crisis gripping Queensland communities as shown by many horrific abuse cases and allegations over recent times. This is a serious issue for Queensland and there is an urgent need for Government to do more to protect children.

New section 74AN is intended to serve as an override declaration envisaged by sections 43 and 45 of the HR Act. The provision makes it clear that the HR Act has no application to the substantive provisions designed to facilitate Queensland's new public child sex offender register and that a body performing functions or exercising powers under these provisions is not a public entity within the meaning of the HR Act in respect of its performance of those functions or exercise of those powers.

DAN PURDIE MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

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