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

Submission No: 4

Submitted by: Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union

Publication: Making the submission and your name public

Attachments: See attachment

Submitter Comments:



Submission to

Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

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

September 2025

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Introduction

The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU) thanks the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee (the Committee) for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025.

The QNMU is Queensland's largest registered union for nurses and midwives, representing over 79,000 members. The QNMU is a state branch of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) with the ANMF representing over 345,000 members.

Our members work in health and aged care including public and private hospitals and health services, residential and community aged care, mental health, general practice, and disability sectors across a wide variety of urban, regional, rural, and remote locations.

The QNMU is run by nurses and midwives, for nurses and midwives. We have a proud history of working with our members for over 100 years to promote and defend the professional, industrial, social, and political interests of our members. Our members direct the QNMU's priorities and policies through our democratic processes.

The QNMU expresses our continued commitment to working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to achieve health equity outcomes. The QNMU remains committed to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, including a pathway to truth telling and treaty. We acknowledge the lands on which we work and meet always was, and always will be, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The QNMU will provide a general comment on the introduction of the bill named as Daniel's Law.

General comment

We unequivocally support the intent of Daniel's Law in providing protection for children and their sexual safety, noting that nurses and midwives, as part of the broader healthcare system, play a critical role in this effort.

We take the opportunity to emphasise the importance of clarifying how the legislation intersects with existing mandatory reporting obligations for nurses and midwives. Clear guidance is needed on professional responsibilities, monitoring obligations and the protections in place, to support nurses and midwives to practice safely. Ideally, this guidance should be incorporated into the existing child protection mandatory education required to be completed by these professions.

We also note that the safety of nurses and midwives must be prioritised when undertaking community or home visits, particularly in circumstances where they may be required to

provide care to individuals listed as sex offenders. The ramifications of these circumstances, and the protections available to nurses and midwives must also be considered.