

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

<b>Submission No:</b>	8
<b>Submitted by:</b>	The Queensland Sexual Assault Network
<b>Publication:</b>	Making the submission and your name public
<b>Attachments:</b>	See attachment
<b>Submitter Comments:</b>	

9<sup>th</sup> September 2025

The Secretariat  
Justice, Integrity and Community  
Safety Committee  
George Street  
Parliament House QLD 4000

Dear Secretariat,

**RE: COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND PUBLIC CHILD SEX OFFENDER REGISTER (DANIEL'S LAW)  
BILL 2025**

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to respond to this bill.

**About QSAN**

The Queensland Sexual Assault Network (QSAN) is the peak body for sexual violence prevention and support organisations in Queensland. We have 21 member services, including specialist services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, culturally and linguistically diverse women, women with intellectual disability, young women, men and children and our membership are located throughout Queensland, including in rural and regional locations. Most services provide responses to children 12 years and up and some to children under 12 years, as well as harmful sexual behaviours programs.

Our network of non-Government services is funded to provide specialist sexual assault counselling, support, and prevention programs in Queensland. QSAN is committed to working towards ensuring all Queenslanders who experience sexual violence recently or historically, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, cultural background receive a high-quality response in line with best practice, client-centred principles. In addition to QSAN's core business of specialist sexual violence counselling we also provide a holistic response that meets a victim-survivor's other needs, including referrals and assistance for financial assistance, legal, housing and other referrals. Our work and analysis of sexual violence is from a feminist perspective and addressed within a specialist trauma framework.

We are committed to engaging with government and other bodies to raise systemic issues of concern, and to ensure the voices and experiences of victims of sexual violence are considered in the formulation of relevant policy and legislation in Queensland.

Our own practice knowledge and research findings tell us that *child sexual abuse can be perpetrated by anyone, most child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone known to the child or*

*young person, including other children and young people and family members.*<sup>1</sup> The issue of child sexual abuse is also a relatively common experience. The recent Australian Child Maltreatment Study found 28.5% of children reported experiencing child sexual abuse<sup>2</sup>. Similarly to all sexual violence matters, formal reporting to the police and criminal convictions for child sexual abuse offending, are both extremely low. In adult matters, only 8% of women report sexual violence and less than 2% are convicted and these figures would be lower for children.

The proposed register will contain information about offenders who are both convicted of an offence and have reporting obligations for a period, once released back into the community. Tier 1 is even more limited than this, being for offenders who meet the previous criteria but have failed to meet their reporting obligations or are missing.


Given the limited scope of the register, QSAN suggests the new register be accompanied by clear education and communication about its limitations, that most child sexual abuse offenders are not convicted/registered and there is no guarantee that the person they are checking on is not an offender. This means parents should be vigilant with any adults who have contact with their children and referrals should be made available to respected resources on child sexual abuse, protective behaviours and where to go to seek support and help.

We are unsure if the current register includes offences from overseas, but we advocate that this occurs, if this is not the case.

We also refer the committee to QSAN's 10 Point Plan to addressing sexual violence in Queensland that advocates for the Queensland Government to work with QSAN and other relevant stakeholders to develop a 10-year sexual violence plan that would provide a vision for *"addressing sexual violence, supports victim-survivors, drives down offending, and provides a clear role and appropriate funding for specialist sexual violence services"*. The QSAN 10 Point Plan also recommends the expansion of service provision for the current specialist sexual violence sector to *"respond to child sexual abuse, by increasing skilled and age-appropriate sexual violence counselling for children under 12 years"*. There are extremely limited services in Queensland for child sexual abuse (under 12 years), especially for those that are not a Child Safety referral. For example, in Brisbane there are no service referrals for child sexual abuse for non-Child Safety cases for children under 12 years and this scarcity of services is exacerbated in regional and rural areas. Our QSAN 10 Point Plan also recommends funding for prevention work, at a local level through QSAN services.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat.

Kind Regards,



Angela Lynch  
Executive Officer  
QSAN.

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<sup>1</sup> [Child sexual abuse - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Findings - The Australian Child Maltreatment Study \(ACMS\)](#)

### What is the problem?

**Reported crime statistics over two decades in Queensland reveal that the most pressing issue that requires addressing in the criminal justice system is sexual violence.**

Only four categories of crime increased over this time period. The largest increase was for rape/attempted rape (**226%**) and sexual violence increased by **42%**.

Only **8%** of victim survivors report to police and unfortunately, according to the **National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children**, prevalence rates are also increasing.

### Sexual violence has lifelong impacts on victim survivors

It is one of the most under-reported, under-charged, under-prosecuted and under-convicted crimes and therefore requires a specialised response.

### Why support specialist sexual violence prevention services (“the specialist sector”)?

- The specialist sector:
  - provides expert responses to all victim-survivors of sexual violence – women, children, men and gender diverse people – whether they report to police or not;
  - **provides holistic care** that centres on lived experience and responds to individual needs, providing urgent responses in cases of acute rape and in other cases, long-term therapeutic care. The assistance can include counselling, group work, court support, help and advocacy with other systems, e.g. hospitals, police, housing and legal;
  - supports victim survivors of a violent crime at one of the most confronting times of their lives, helping many to **heal and regain their strength**, to contribute once again to our community and economy;
  - **promotes prevention** through therapeutic care and other activities, e.g. Sexual Violence Awareness Month activities
- **Unaddressed trauma does not go away.** In economic terms it costs our community in other systems, such as mental health, alcohol and drug, child protection, emergency and broader health and prison systems. It therefore makes sense to invest in the specialist sector to respond, as early as possible.
- Investment in child sexual abuse counselling responses is also critical. Not only is it a human right of children to heal but unfortunately, the trauma caused by these crimes can increase risk of later victimisation and perpetration of interpersonal violence in adulthood.
- The specialist sector provides essential services but need funding support and certainty to carry out their vital work.

### What is the solution?

#### QSAN's 10-Point Plan

- 1** Develop a 10-year sexual violence plan that provides a future vision for addressing sexual violence that supports victim survivors, drives down offending, and provides a clear role and appropriate funding for specialist sexual violence prevention services ("the specialist sector") to support victim survivors.
- 2** Invest in capacity-building of the specialist sector that also addresses historical underfunding, and will meet future demand and population growth, to better support victim survivors.
- 3** Expand service provision in the specialist sector for responding to child sexual abuse by increasing skilled and age-appropriate sexual violence counselling for children under 12 years.
- 4** Fund the specialist sector to support victim survivors from (police) report to court.
- 5** Roll out specialist, multidisciplinary, collaborative teams across Queensland to respond to sexual violence 24/7, in a trauma-informed, and survivor-centred way (demonstrated by SART Townsville region).
- 6** Invest in evidence-based early interventions and prevention strategies to stop or reduce the risk of sexual violence perpetration.
- 7** Implement the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations in full.
- 8** Fund and adequately resource an independent sexual violence peak body to support sustainable sector growth.
- 9** Address court backlogs.
- 10** Fund prevention workers in the specialist sector to provide 'targeted strategies' addressing the needs of local communities, to increase awareness of affirmative consent and to help disrupt a broad culture that supports victim-blaming.