


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

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Submitted by:	
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29.08.2025

To the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee,

RE: Submission – Daniel’s Law (Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register Bill 2025)

I wish to express my support for Daniel’s Law. This Bill is a vital step forward for the safety of all children. It not only provides an important new tool for parents and carers, but it also raises community awareness of the devastating reality of child sexual abuse, which is rife in our communities.

Daniel’s Law empowers parents and carers to be more vigilant. However, it only captures a small population of offenders. The Bill applies only to those who have been charged, prosecuted and convicted. It does not address the many cases where:

- Offenders have been through the courts but the justice system has failed to secure a conviction, or
- Offenders have never even been charged because of the extremely high evidentiary threshold for arrest in child sexual abuse cases.

The Gap in Protection

We know that many child sex offenders are never convicted, despite disclosures being made. Brave children come forward, they tell their story, and yet nothing happens because our justice system demands more than the brave testimony of a child. In Australia, as in many jurisdictions, prosecutions often require corroboration beyond the child’s disclosure — even though research shows children rarely fabricate allegations of sexual abuse. The child’s word alone is too often dismissed, even when their disclosures are consistent and courageous.

This is deeply concerning. I hope to see change. I hope that children’s voices are finally valued as sufficient evidence to act. Our system should recognise that a child’s disclosure is not “just words” — it is lived trauma, and it must be taken seriously.

My Family’s Experience

My brave daughter disclosed abuse by my former partner, a man she trusted as a father figure. She trusted him, we trusted him — but all along he was abusing her. She was courageous enough to speak up, but we were told there was not enough evidence.

My former step-daughter also came forward against this same man, her own biological father.

Her words were not enough either. Two children, two voices, two separate disclosures — and still, nothing was done.

This man has no criminal history. He appears respectable, he has money, and on the surface he seems wonderful. But women and children are not safe with him, and we know there are many more like him. Daniel's Law will not capture people like this, because they have not been convicted — but they are still dangerous.

Conclusion

I strongly support Daniel's Law and commend the tireless work of Denise and Bruce Morcombe. Their advocacy has paved the way for stronger protections, and I thank them enormously for all they do to protect our children.

At the same time, I urge the Committee to consider the gaps this Bill leaves unaddressed. Daniel's Law will save lives, but we must also ensure that children's disclosures are treated as evidence, that the justice system does not continue to silence them, and that parents and carers are given every possible tool to keep children safe.

Signed,

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