

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

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To whom it may concern,

We appreciate the chance to submit some thoughts on the *Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025*.

What the States, Territories and Child Protectionists are stating in regards to public notification, such as, Daniel's law:

- The Hon. Mark Speakman, Attorney-General, NSW Government (Oct, 2017); agrees that child protection laws need to be evidenced based, and pointed out, that the NSW Government does not have any current plans to make the personal details of registrable persons publicly available.
- Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation, 2017; The Hon. Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Police asked Mr. Verginis to respond on her behalf. I want to assure you that the Victorian Government has no plans to introduce a public sex offender's registry. Research into public registration schemes elsewhere in the world suggests that they do not demonstrably reduce the number of assaults on children, are costly to operate, and may have unintended impacts for offenders, their victims, families, and in cases of mistaken identity, strangers.
- The Hon. Elise Archer MP, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, (30/01/2019); "It's the current position of the Tasmanian Government that we would need to be convinced a reform such as the one proposed by the Federal Government would provide genuine protections for victims. I note that the concept of a national register has previously been the subject of extensive national discussions and was not supported at that time."
- The Hon. Natasha Fyles, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, N.T. (29/01/2019); received a letter from Minister Dutton. Attorney-General Fyles, responded raising concerns relevant to the Northern Territory. It was communicated that the many issues with a public sex offender register require comprehensive and robust consultation, which could not be achieved by 11 January 2019.
- Blue Knot Foundation, Dr Cathy Kezelman (Jan,2019); argues against a public register.

- Ms Hetty Johnson AM, founder and chair of Bravehearts Australia. Australia's leading child safety advocate, boldly asserts that, "It just doesn't work. Any kind of research will tell you it just doesn't work. That we're even contemplating it in this country just makes me shake my head ¹."
- NSW Police Minister, the Hon. Troy Grant, emphasizes that, "The state already had the toughest laws in the country tackling child sex offences and we do have preliminary concerns with a public register, regarding its operation and associated risks." In addition, a NSW parliamentary committee, chaired by Mr Grant, rejected a similar proposal in 2014. Furthermore "the government has concerns with instances in the US where innocent members of the community have been targeted. Moreover, concerns about vigilantism and that offenders would abscond to avoid exposure making it harder for police to keep track of them, also, the risk of identifying victims, given most child sex offences are perpetrated by someone known to the victim. States already have internal registers that police and other authorities can use to keep track of convicted offenders ²."
- Queensland Police Minister, the Hon. Mark Ryan, notes that "The government was consulting the state's police force," but added: "This has been looked at previously and concerns have been raised by a number of child safety advocates that offenders will be driven underground ²."
- Shadow Attorney-General, the Hon. Mark Dreyfus believes the existing nationwide register available to police and verifying people who work with children were both effective measures. Likewise, he stated, "When this was raised a few years ago, then-prime minister Abbott rejected it as not being effective. It would be good to know what has changed since then ³." Nothing has changed.
- The then Prime Minister Tony Abbott in 2014, concluded he was, "Disinclined for a National Register. We don't have a national murderers register, we don't have a national thieves register, we don't have a national white collar criminals register ⁴."

Kind regards,

Sean Ryan

PS. Perhaps now is not the right time to import any American made dodgy products, such as, Daniel's law.

References

1 David Wroe, Sally Rawsthorne & Bianca Hall. Morrison government plan for public sex offenders list faces scepticism from states. 9 January 2019.

2 David Wroe, Sally Rawsthorne & Bianca Hall. Morrison government plan for public sex offenders list faces scepticism from states. 9 January 2019.

2 9 News. Lawyers concerned about child sex register 10 January 2019.

4 Amy Remeikis. Peter Dutton calls for national child-sex offender register. But critics say there is no evidence such registers increase community safety or reduce re-offending. Guardian. 9 January 2019.