



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Daniel Morcombe, Red Ribbon Day

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 a.m.): Today is Red Ribbon Day. It is Red Ribbon Day in parliament as we demonstrate our support for the family of Daniel Morcombe, who disappeared 136 days ago today. A team of 30 police officers are continuing to diligently investigate the disappearance of this young teenager, who went missing while waiting for a bus at the Kiel Mountain Road overpass at Palmwoods.

Red ribbons have become a symbol of the Sunshine Coast community's resolve to continue the search for Daniel and to continue supporting his family. We are wearing red ribbons today, and I want to thank honourable members for doing that because we have not forgotten Daniel or his family.

The significance of the colour red, Mr Speaker, as you know, is that Daniel was wearing a red T-shirt on the day he went missing. While there have been more than 3,500 calls to Crimestoppers so far about Daniel's disappearance, it is important to maintain a high level of awareness about this case. That is why the community has supported the printing and widespread distribution of posters and other promotional material, and that is why the ABC's *Australian Story* last night was dedicated to a report on the case. I want to congratulate the ABC for what I thought was an excellent production and also the Queensland Police Service, who have been supporting the family in a very sensitive and caring way. I think, having seen that, all of us should be very proud of the service and the work they are doing to assist this family.

It is also why the Morcombe family is planning a national advertising campaign for next Tuesday, and we wish them well in that. It is also why a Sunshine Coast singer has written and released a special music CD called *Daniel* and that is why members on all sides of parliament today are united in their support for the Morcombe family. While it is hard to imagine what this family is experiencing, I am sure I speak for every parent in Australia in saying to Denise and Bruce, to the family, that our thoughts and prayers are with you. Chris Cummins and I had an opportunity to have a quick morning tea with Denise and Bruce and their two sons Bradley and Dean, and I have to say that they are a lovely, lovely family. I am sure all members would agree that our hearts go out to them.

I could not imagine anything worse than to lose one of my three children and to simply not know where that child had gone. My wife, Heather, and I join all members in expressing our strongest support for the Morcombe family. They are in the gallery today, and I want to wish them all the best on behalf of all members of this parliament. I would urge all Queenslanders and all Australians: if you have any information of any kind, no matter how small or how insignificant you may think it is, come forward to Crimestoppers because it could be the key that could unlock the mystery of what has happened here. I would urge everybody to think about it and to think seriously. If anyone knows the people involved in this matter, I would urge them to search their conscience and to come clean and go to the police. As I said, I urge anyone anywhere who has information that might assist this investigation to call Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

Daniel's classmates have made a CD as part of their support for their mate. Mr Speaker, I want to thank you because I know that you have provided facilities to play this CD, and I seek leave to have that CD played in the House now.

Leave granted.

A CD was then played in the Chamber.

Mr SPEAKER: It certainly brings home the problems.