



Speech by  
**Ian Rickuss**

**MEMBER FOR LOCKYER**

Hansard Tuesday, 4 September 2007

---

**COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILD  
GUARDIAN AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—NPA) (3.24 pm): I rise to say a few words on the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Amendment Bill 2007. Like everyone in this House, we support the fact that the blue card is there to protect children. Parents and guardians still cannot renege on their own responsibilities to make sure that their children are safe. Unfortunately it is a fact of life that paedophiles are out in the community and people always have to be vigilant. Blue cards are a little bit like locks and keys: they will keep the honest people honest but we do still have to be very vigilant.

I support the bill. However, I agree with previous speakers who have said that maybe we should look at putting identification on blue cards. In support of the contribution of the member for Burnett, I know of a case of a young fellow being assaulted by a wardman in a public hospital many years ago. I am sure that it can happen to anyone in an institution. I support this bill and I accept the fact that there probably are improvements.

I did have contact from a constituent of mine who was concerned about Santa Clauses. In rural areas the whole community attends a street Christmas function where the kids line up for two blocks down the road and the parents go off and are at ham wheel spins and there are a couple of Santas in rotation because it is a big afternoon. The question is whether those Santa Clauses should have a blue card when they are not in a closed work environment such as a department store. I would ask the minister to look at that when the act is reviewed or respond now in his summing-up. It is the situation in smaller communities—such as some of the towns in my area—that 2,000 to 3,000 people will turn up for a street Christmas party where they have ham wheels and whatnot and quite often the line-up of children to see Santa in an afternoon is several hundred. In this case, there are a couple of Santas working in rotation. With those few words I support the bill.