



Speech by

## Robert Messenger

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

Hansard Wednesday, 17 October 2007

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### SEX OFFENDERS

**Mr MESSENGER** (Burnett—NPA) (10.10 pm): Despite the mistruths and disinformation that the police and corrective services minister is disseminating, 35 dangerous sex offenders and repeat child rapists—soon to rise to 100—have been released back into the Queensland community in secret. Their personal details including residential addresses are placed on a child protection register and only a very few select people are able then to access that information—certainly not the regular mums and dads of Queensland.

Clause 69 of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 restricts access to the register. If you, I or any ordinary Queenslanders wanted that information, we would be denied access. If a police officer or corrective services officer gives out that information without special permission from the police commissioner to Queensland's mums and dads who might like to know if a repeat child rapist and sex predator is living near their neighbourhood, then those officers would be charged with breaching clause 70 of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004. That means that those police and corrective services officers would face a fine of \$11,250 or two years imprisonment.

To add insult to injury, dangerous sex offenders have rights of access to all reportable information about them enshrined in Labor legislation—which is in clause 73—while the victims, their families and potential victims have no rights whatsoever under this Labor legislation. That is why we will hear of more reports of notorious paedophiles, as was the case on Thursday, 11 October 2007, when Desmond George Buckby was arrested in Townsville after allegedly allowing five children under 16 into his home.

The other alarming fact is that none of these repeat child rapists and violent sex predators are being properly tracked or monitored after they are allowed out of jail by this government. The grey-headed flying fox, which was the subject of Minister McNamara's ministerial statement this morning, is fitted with a GPS tracking device and is monitored in Queensland better than child sex offenders. If GPS tracking is good enough for flying foxes, why cannot the police minister use it for paedophiles?

A state coalition government will focus on the protection of victims and future victims because research from the *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, through Gene Abel and colleagues in 1987, indicates a high rate of undetected offending. A study group of 89 rapists reported an average of 7.5 undetected offences per offender. A study group of 232 child molesters reported an average of 75.8 victims undetected offences per offender.

The fact remains that the priority for this government is the rights and liberties of repeat child rapists, molesters and paedophiles—not the rights, liberties and protection of Queensland children and women. Time is running out. At the very least, fit Queensland's dangerous sex offenders with the same GPS tracking technology as the grey-headed flying fox.