



Speech by

# Robert Messenger

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2007

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## SEX OFFENDERS

**Mr MESSENGER** (Burnett—NPA) (11.57 am): Dangerous sex offenders, repeat child rapists and molesters like Robert John Fardon according to most scientific studies are almost incurable, and this government has a record of failing to fight hard enough to keep them in jail. The recidivism rates for paedophiles and repeat child rapists are between 50 per cent and 90 per cent. According to a study titled *Managing unacceptable risk: sex offenders, community response and social policy in the United States and Canada*, 89 rapists reported an average of 7.5 undetected victims, 232 child molesters reported an average of 75.8 unreported and undetected victims.

The first priority of politicians who create policy and strategies to manage the issue of dangerous sex offenders must always be focused on the protection, rights and liberties of the victims, both reported and unreported. In Queensland we have reached the ridiculous situation where we are placing the protection, rights and liberties of repeat child rapists and dangerous sex offenders before the protection, rights and liberties of our children and women. This government has an official policy of releasing in secret repeat child rapists and dangerous sex offenders, until this morning when the minister for police and corrective services caved in to media and community pressure and promised publicly that the next time the government tried to release a dangerous sex offender back into the community she would make Corrective Services staff doorknock the street in which the government plans to relocate the dangerous sex offender. Why stop at that street? Why not the one beside it and the one beside that?

All Queensland parents, including those in Bundaberg and the Burnett, should have the right to know if the government plans to relocate a dangerous sex offender in their neighbourhood. This government must not stop our mums and dads from obtaining information which will help them protect their children. Who does this government care for most? Dangerous sex offenders or the victims? Police and Corrective Services officers are subject to fines of more than \$11,000 and jail terms of two years for telling mums and dads—

Time expired.