




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

CHILD PROTECTION (OFFENDER REPORTING—PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (2.36 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 and the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 to provide for the publication of information about particular offenders. I table the bill and the explanatory notes and I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Child Protection (Offender Reporting—Publication of Information) Amendment Bill 2013 [[3445](#)].

Tabled paper: Child Protection (Offender Reporting—Publication of Information) Amendment Bill 2013, explanatory notes [[3446](#)].

The primary objectives of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting—Publication of Information) Amendment Bill 2013 are to create a means by which the information may be disclosed to the community concerning certain categories of reportable offenders, dangerous sexual offenders and other persons considered to be a risk to the lives or sexual safety of other persons. The bill amends the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 and the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003. These amendments will give the Queensland Police Commissioner the power to publish information on Queensland's most dangerous and high-risk sex offenders.

Concerned members of the community will have access to critical information, enabling them to identify reportable offenders in their neighbourhood or who otherwise have access to children in their care. A 'reportable offender' describes a person whom a court sentences for a reportable offence. A reportable offence is an offence which comprises of a sexual or serious element involving a child or an incapable person as listed in schedules 1 and 2 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 1978.

A reportable offender can also include offenders who come to reside in Queensland from other jurisdictions and persons whom the court has ordered to comply with the act. As well as reportable offenders, this bill will apply to dangerous sexual offenders and other offenders upon the authorisation of the Minister for Police.

Growing community outrage at the number of sexual assaults on children committed by known offenders has resulted in increased sentencing. However, it has been widely acknowledged that monitoring and supervision of offenders post release is inadequate and addressing monitoring deficiencies is costly. This has led to the introduction of registration schemes in many jurisdictions, including Queensland. The effectiveness of offender registration schemes will be strengthened by making information on certain offenders available to the community and empowering community members to assist parole services and the Queensland Police Service to monitor sexual offenders post release. This has already been put in place by the West Australian government and has proven to be very, very successful. It was also implemented by the Clinton government when they acknowledged that there was a big problem in the United States of America.

First Reading

Mr KNUTH (Dalrymple—KAP) (2.39 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.