



Speech By  
**Hon. David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2014

**MEMBER'S STATEMENTS**

**Daniel Morcombe Foundation**

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (2.43 pm): As the member for Mundingburra I represent a region that is very proud to call itself North Queensland. Today I wish to make a contribution about a family who live more than a thousand kilometres to the south but who have captured our hearts and our minds in recent years. I refer to the Morcombes. This Friday I will be attending the fifth annual Walk for Daniel in our part of the world with my good friend Sam Cox, the member for Thuringowa. It is in his electorate. That is one of a series of events that the Morcombe foundation is running in my city. The other night with the member for Townsville I went to the third annual Dance for Daniel and we have been having Day for Daniel for eight years.

I am so passionate about this cause because, as someone with two young children, I have seen the difference this charity has made to the awareness of child safety to my own children. The pain that Bruce and Denise Morcombe have gone through is immeasurable. None of us could ever imagine what it has done to them and to their family. But through their grief and through their heartache there has been a message for each and every one of our families. They are people who have used their very difficult situation to benefit a wonderful cause across the nation.

I want to talk about some of the local heroes in my city who have grabbed this charity and made it their own. I refer to people like Acting Senior Sergeant Bernadette Strow, Senior Sergeant Janelle Poole, Emily Osborne and Daniel Radford. And there are sponsors who have backed this for a number of years. I do not refer just to the Queensland Police Service but also to BHP Billiton; Jupiters; the Reclining Rockers, one of the great bands in our part of the world; the Rowes Bay Golf Club; the *Townsville Bulletin*; and also my friends at Zinc FM Radio, people like Karina and Scotty—I know that Karina has hosted the walk for many years—and Wildy in the afternoon. They are all fantastic supporters.

What this charity has done is twofold. First, it has raised valuable funds. The stories about helping young people get an opportunity to pursue their dreams are very special. But I believe its greatest achievements have been in the area of awareness. The way it has empowered non-government organisations, foster carers and people right across the community to feel passionate and to feel as though they have a voice when it comes to child safety is indeed a remarkable achievement of this charity. It is Daniel's legacy. If one family so far away can capture the hearts and minds of North Queensland, I believe it is capable of capturing the hearts and minds of the nation.