




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (7.31 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

It is a great honour for me to speak to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting—Publication of Information) Amendment Bill. 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. I repeat that again—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 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, the 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. I commend the Attorney for acknowledging this. However, it has been widely acknowledged that monitoring and supervision of offenders post release are inadequate and addressing monitoring deficiencies is costly. This has led to the introduction of registration schemes in many jurisdictions. 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 the parole services and the Police Service to monitor sexual offenders post release. I am aware that the Attorney-General in some ways commended me for taking this initiative. He has introduced legislation going hard on sexual offenders, but this is a little different. This is about sexual offenders whom when released from jail are very difficult to report on in terms of knowing their whereabouts or what they are doing. As we have seen in the past, many of these sexual offenders get involved with kindies. They get involved where children are, but this gives us the tool for concerned parents to gain an understanding of whether the person who is caring for their child

is a serious sex offender. This has already been put in place by the Western Australian government and has proven to be very successful. It was also implemented by the Clinton government when it acknowledged there was a big problem in the United States of America.

The community expects us to do everything in our power to make sure offenders are never given the opportunity to destroy another young life. We owe it to the victims of sexual abuse to rise to that expectation. I will continue with the last part of my speech later.