




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Child Sex Offenders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (10.10 am): The Palaszczuk government listens to community concerns and responds—that is what Labor governments do—and we pass laws that are effective and legally robust. The legislation the Premier has outlined this morning will build on our track record of responsible, enforceable laws which make our community safer.

Currently, a serious sex offender who has served their prison term can continue to be detained in prison or released into the community under a strict court ordered supervision order under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act. This system was introduced by Labor in 2003 and has worked well to make our communities safer. Indeed, it has been copied by states and territories across the country, because it proved the most effective and constitutionally robust way of monitoring serious sex offenders when they had served their sentenced prison terms.

In 2004, further laws were brought in to protect the community from those individuals who sexually offend against children under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act. As these regimes mature and cohorts of recognised serious child offenders make their way through the system, the community has demanded more and this government will provide more. Under the changes we are announcing today, when a child sex offender's DPSO order ceases, they will now become automatic reportable offenders under child protection reporting legislation for the rest of their life.

This government stands with victims. We stand with the community and against those who prey on our children. I would hope the amendments moved today are welcomed by all of us in the chamber. Laws like these are what the community has elected us to enforce. Just as the Palaszczuk government ensured that our serious and organised crime legislation gave the police the powers they need, through operationally strong laws to tackle child exploitation, we also made sure the laws were legally robust.

I thank the opposition for briefing me on their proposed laws, but I am more convinced than ever that it is Labor's proposed amendments that will be upheld in any challenge. They are strong and they will operationally provide the police the powers they need. We owe it to victims to keep our community safer by having strong, legally robust laws to achieve this aim. That is what the amendments being moved today by this government will deliver.