




Speech By  
**Brent Mickelberg**

**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

---

Record of Proceedings, 23 October 2019

**CIVIL LIABILITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (12.02 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution on the Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. It is a bill which seeks to implement the recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in relation to redress and civil litigation and it aims to improve the capacity of the legal system to provide fair justice to survivors of child sexual abuse.

At the outset, let me say that I find nothing more abhorrent than the abuse of a child. Our institutions and society as a whole failed when people stood by and let the abuse of children occur without acting. It simply is not good enough and any actions that we as community representatives can take to acknowledge the suffering of the victims of such acts should be pursued.

In speaking to this bill, I had intended to raise concerns which have been addressed by the amendments foreshadowed by the Attorney-General yesterday—specifically, the failure to include physical abuse in the definition of child abuse. I am pleased that the LNP will be supporting these amendments as it is clear that abuse takes many forms. The research is clear that many of those who offend against children escalate their behaviour when grooming their victim. The contribution yesterday by the member for Mirani spoke of the impact that such physical abuse can have not only on the child but also on their family. I also had concerns with respect to the non-delegable duty of institutions, as I feel that institutions should not be able to avoid scrutiny for the actions of those who serve under their banner through their structures.

Before I finish my brief contribution, I would like to acknowledge the brave actions of those who have told their difficult stories of abuse. It is never easy to stand up and address such issues, but it is through the actions of such brave souls that community awareness and, pleasingly, action has improved. I commend the bill.