




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Child Protection, Law Reform

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.47 am): Today, I am proud to announce that the Palaszczuk government will be releasing a draft bill that seeks to implement some of the key recommendations of the royal commission's *Criminal justice* report on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. As outlined by the Premier, we will create a new failure to report offence that will help ensure that children no longer need to suffer in silence and instances of child sexual abuse are no longer able to go unreported to police, including where perpetrators or victims disclose the abuse during religious confession.

A new failure to protect offence will create a new culture of accountability. The absence of this offence allowed perpetrators to be moved between schools or sites operated by an institution, despite the institutional knowledge that the perpetrator posed a substantial risk to vulnerable young children.

By implementing these royal commission recommendations, it is my hope that we end that practice once and for all. Our reforms will make substantive changes to the Evidence Act to allow more juries to hear evidence of the previous crimes of accused criminals. Our reforms will ensure that child sex offenders cannot use their community standing to lessen their sentence, when it was that community standing that facilitated their offending in the first place. Predators will now face criminal punishment not just for grooming their child victims but also grooming the families of their would-be victims.

We are also taking steps to crack down on a disgusting practice. Between July 2013 and June 2018, the Department of Home Affairs reported that 133 child sex dolls were imported into Australia. A number of the dolls have been seized in Queensland. These dolls are designed to look like pubescent or prepubescent children. They are manufactured overseas and imported into our state for predators. The Palaszczuk government wants to stamp out this practice. Individuals who are found in possession of these vile objects will face up to 14 years in jail. Members of the community involved in the commercial production or supply of these objects will face up to 20 years in jail. This bill will keep our community safer and see offenders punished for their crimes. I encourage all Queenslanders to make their voices heard on this important bill by visiting www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au. It is in the best interests of all of our children and it is what we need to do for all Queenslanders.