



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Linard**


**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Child Safety; Day for Daniel**

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.06 am): This week Queenslanders are celebrating Children's Week. This year's theme is: 'Children have the right to choose their own friends and safely connect with others'. It encourages us all to acknowledge and respect children's ability to make choices, and for adults to listen and provide guidance.

Encouraging children to be part of decisions that directly affect them is at the heart of what we do across my portfolio. I am proud to say that Queensland is the first jurisdiction in the country to acknowledge in legislation the need for children to have a voice, where they must be listened to, engaged with and every attempt made to understand their views.

Empowering children to share their hopes, dreams, worries and fears not only helps them bring about the change they want to see but also is a crucial way of informing government as it makes big decisions relating to their safety and wellbeing. I am proud to say that through our Supporting Families Changing Futures reform program this government is taking steps to legislate to enshrine the voice of children and young people, where they must be listened to, engaged with and attempts made to understand their views. This commitment to strengthen mechanisms that capture the voices of children in our care is essential to supporting families, communities and cultures to be free from violence, abuse and neglect.

Keeping children safe is the responsibility of each and every one of us. Tomorrow is Day for Daniel, a day which unites our nation under one goal: to make Australia a safe place for all children. It is 18 years since the tragic murder of 13-year-old Sunshine Coast boy Daniel Morcombe, a boy dressed in red who will forever be part of our lives and in our hearts. Through their tireless work, Daniel's parents, Denise and Bruce Morcombe, have been determined to prevent another similar tragedy from happening, and they have ensured generations of children are learning how to keep themselves safe.

The theme this year is: 'wear red, educate and donate'. It is all about encouraging parents, carers and educators to start a conversation with children and young people about their personal safety so that they are able to recognise, react and report to grown-ups to get the help that they need. Importantly, the message equally is: when children raise and report, believe them.

Last year's Day for Daniel saw over 4,800 schools and early learning centres wearing red in remembrance of Daniel. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation does an amazing job and I am proud to be part of a government that stands shoulder to shoulder with Bruce and Denise in the fight to keep all children safe. I encourage all members to wear red tomorrow in remembrance of Daniel. Tomorrow I hope all Queenslanders will take a moment to remember Daniel and to make a promise to themselves to keep all children safe from harm every day of the year.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, if I am not mistaken, tomorrow is your birthday. Happy birthday for tomorrow!