




Speech By  
**Amanda Camm**

**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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## **CHILD PROTECTION (OFFENDER REPORTING AND OFFENDER PROHIBITION ORDER) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (4.25 pm): I am pleased to contribute to the original bill that was put before the House, the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will deal separately with the original bill and the foreshadowed amendments. Without a doubt, law enforcement agencies—at both a state and a federal level—and advocates, from Bravehearts through to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, contributed greatly to the committee process. We acknowledge their hard work and efforts. I also acknowledge the committee members, who I am sure found some of the detail of what was contained in the hearings quite disturbing.

Like many in this House, I am confronted by the very disturbing details of child sex offenders and child sex traffickers across the state, particularly as the shadow minister for child protection. I know that every member of the House has been contacted by victims of crime or has dealt with their local Police Service with regard to what has been I think a growing and abhorrent subculture within our society, particularly in the online, digital and dark web world.

While the opposition supports the original bill before us—there is no greater priority than protecting our children—we have found some issues with the amendments. One in particular relates to the police portfolio—it was outlined by the shadow minister for police—and the removal of the proposed requirements for reportable offenders to provide a MAC address. This demonstrates that when the government puts forward legislation it is not engaging and consulting at the pace at which technology changes. The legislation would have been unworkable in terms of requiring an offender to advise the MAC address every time their device was connected to the internet. The government does not understand that—since 2014—MAC addresses, particularly on Apple devices, change readily every time someone punches in a web address or an IT address. When it comes to consultation and engagement, the government is not keeping up with society.

That points me to where I have major concerns with the amendments as well. In particular, this bill is being considered without any reference to the Crime and Corruption Commission's report titled *Protecting the lives of children and their sexual safety*. A total of 23 recommendations were made by the CCC. Recommendations that directly reference the registry screen in particular are very important to this bill. The government has introduced a bill and rushed through a heap of amendments but has not considered the critical recommendations made by the CCC with regard to this bill, particularly around data and around improving and identifying requirements for additional tools and capabilities. This is a recommendation in which the Queensland Police Service and those who work in child safety in particular see value. The police minister speaks about the risk of technological advances but has not given police the technology or the resources or even taken into consideration a very critical report that needs to update policing across this state to ensure police can keep up with insidious crimes.

I want to address the issues that have been raised. Yesterday I went outside and met the victims of crime who came and shared their stories. We have seen over the course of the last several weeks and with the proposed amendments and the contributions of many government members of the House

who speak so boldly about child safety and the protection of the physical, emotional and sexual safety of our children the battle between the left and right of the Labor Party. We have seen the minister who oversaw the failed bail houses in the youth justice system and the closure of those bail houses stripped of that ministry. We have seen our fourth child safety minister and our third or fourth youth justice minister.

The youth justice minister comes into this House and says that formalising the arrangements around our young who are detained is formalising what has been business as usual for 30 years. It is important to remind Queenslanders that this government has overseen child safety and the youth justice and criminal justice systems for 25 of the last almost 30 years. We have heard that we need to do better and we had reports back in 2019 of vulnerable children being left for weeks and weeks in adult watch houses. I have been contacted by parents who have children in the child safety system—parents who have had their 12-year-old daughter sit for days and days in watch houses without education, without medical attention and without female supervision.

We note the hypocrisy of the government to come in here and say, 'This is business as usual and we are just going to formalise this until 2026 while we build two new detention centres.' How is that acceptable? How is it acceptable that we even have to build two new detention centres in this modern state of Queensland? How is it acceptable that we have over 1,100 children in residential care? How is it acceptable that we have over 500 children under the age of 12 in residential care?

We have a significant number of children in the child protection system. I know this government and Minister Ryan are on record—along with other ministers—that they do not see or believe that there is a correlation between the child safety system and the youth justice system. If that is what they truly believe then they have their heads buried in the sand and that is why we are building two new detention centres. That is why parents are at a complete loss when they are not given the rights that they need or the support that they need to get early intervention for their children to ensure that they protect their children from themselves.

We see the hypocrisy of the left and right of this government in the debate about whether or not we override the Human Rights Act because they are just children. We have seen a revolving door of children and young people who over the past decade have become adult criminals who do the horrendous things the member for Cooper just outlined. We see 15- and 16-year-old boys placed in the same location as little girls. Sexual assaults are occurring right now in this state under the watch and guise of the department and the minister.

After convening a meeting of 60 residential care providers, carers and support workers across this state and hearing what is condoned and what is known and supported by the department and the fourth child safety of this government, this is why we have the problem. This is why we have fast-tracked amendments to be moved that have not gone to a committee and have not been commented on by children and peak youth care groups. When I reached out to peak care groups today—after yesterday receiving all the amendments—they said they had no idea about them.

There is a reason the government did not want to send the amendments to committee and did not want consultation to be undertaken on them with children and youth advocates. That is they would not pass the pub test. They would not stand up to the scrutiny of the media. Instead, they sneak all of these amendments in as part of very critical legislation to ensure it delivers the outcome from the infighting that they want to see.

I finish my contribution by once again acknowledging the advocacy of Mayor Baker and the Isaac Regional Council. They do an incredible job. I have had the privilege to work for and in partnership with Mayor Anne Barker in a previous role. I too understand the challenges of resource communities. The legislation that they have fought for is critical to the sustainability of their community in the long term. This is policy on the run. This is legislation that is being put through without significant consultation with a region that receives the lowest capital investment from royalties of any region in this state. The private sector has to pick up the bill because this Treasurer cannot manage the resource revenue of this state.