




Speech By
Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2025

**COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND PUBLIC CHILD SEX OFFENDER REGISTER
(DANIEL'S LAW) BILL**

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.03 pm): I rise to contribute to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. It is a privilege for me to be able to speak to this bill, having stood with the Premier of Queensland alongside Denise and Bruce Morcombe when we made the public commitment to deliver Daniel's Law as part of our election commitments. That is what the Crisafulli government is doing. We are doing exactly what we said we would. We are here to reduce the number of victims. We are committed to implementing all reforms that will protect children in Queensland, to make Queensland one of the safest states in the nation.

I would like to pay tribute to Bruce and Denise Morcombe. What I would like to say to them on behalf of Queensland is thank you. Thank you for continuing to advocate for Daniel's Law, because for 10 years those opposite did nothing. Daniel was taken and was murdered after suffering horrific abuse by a known sex offender. For 10 years the Labor government did nothing. They did nothing! They come into this chamber and speak platitudes and then they question the validity of this policy and this legislation.

We must do everything we can to protect children in this state. We must do everything we can to give parents and carers the tools to protect their children. Those opposite for 10 years not only failed at introducing any meaningful laws to protect children but also were slow in delivering any reforms. That was demonstrated at the last sitting when the Crisafulli government amended the Child Safe Organisations Act.

All of those opposite who have contributed to debate on this bill today have talked about offenders in our community who abuse through systems and through places where children are and said that those are the unknown. That is correct, so what did those opposite do? They failed to bring forward reportable conduct in line with every other state. We have had to do it. We came into office and brought it forward first. Why have we done that? Because we want to protect children.

We have seen a model of Daniel's Law undertaken by the Western Australian government and, through their review, they have implemented legislation. I heard criticism from the member for Pine Rivers that we should undertake a statutory review sooner. Those opposite would have us waste decades undertaking reviews instead of getting on with the job of protecting children. That is what is important. We should not waste a moment.

I want to thank Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their continued advocacy. They deserve respect and the acknowledgement that, in their own state where their son was taken, a Labor government failed to implement protections. Well, we will not, and we will right the wrongs of the former government.

Every child deserves priority and protection in this state. The introduction of Daniel's Law will provide parents, guardians, carers and other adults who care for children with another tool to ensure that within our community our children are protected and are safe. This register will help families make informed decisions about who interacts with their children and about the areas their children frequent and the activities they participate in, and it allows them to take proactive steps to protect children. I think the mums and dads of Queensland will be thankful for the Crisafulli government introducing Daniel's Law.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Police and the Attorney-General. We have worked very closely both in opposition and in government to deliver this important child protection initiative. I have no doubt that the Queensland Police Service will appreciate this as another tool and a resource in community safety because we have placed community safety at the heart of everything we do.

We are committed to ensuring the safety of children, particularly our most vulnerable. That is why we have taken the step to fund the Queensland Sexual Assault Network, which I have heard many members opposite quote. They had the opportunity for 10 years to fund a peak body for sexual violence in this state and they did not. By not doing so, they failed victims. What we saw over time is an increase in the number of those who experienced sexual violence, sexual abuse and sexual assault. That is the record under the Labor government: an increased number of sexual violence victims. I want to thank Angela Lynch and her board for their ongoing advocacy for victims of sexual violence. We are pleased to work with them to stand up the first independent peak body for sexual violence for Queensland and only the second in the nation.

I also want to talk about other measures we have put in place to increase child protection and child safety in this state, including embedding child safety officers with police and having youth justice officers out on the beat with those children who are self-placing and missing. They are vulnerable and at high risk of being sexually abused or assaulted in this state. It is important that data sharing is improved. It is important that we have a collaborative approach. We have broken down the silos across our departments because, unlike those opposite, we on this side of the House do not operate in factions.

We put children first. We put the protection of our community first, and we will resource that. I have heard a lot from those opposite about what is required to resource Daniel's Law, including for the tier 1 missing noncompliant offender website, the tier 2 locality search and the tier 3 parent/guardian disclosure scheme. Those opposite should rest assured that we will provide the resources and fund the positions. Unlike those opposite who—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection. Those opposite were prepared to sack 93 child safety workers before Christmas. They were not funded, but the Crisafulli government funded them. It was less than a year ago that I stood in this House after uncovering the fact that those opposite were happy to sack 93 frontline child safety officers. That is where their priorities lay in protecting children in this state. We are committed to protecting children in this state and resourcing where we can. The committee's report stated—

The Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission ... Mr Luke Twyford, was also supportive of the Bill and its elevation of the rights of a child.

Let us never lose sight of the rights of a child to be protected now and forever. He said—

... the protection of children from harm must be the paramount consideration in all decision-making. While adult privacy and reputational rights are important, they cannot outweigh the obligation to ensure that children are safe. The harms caused to a child by sexual abuse can be lifelong, irreversible and often intergenerational.

Those opposite can stand up and defend the civil liberties of sex offenders, but we have put at the centre of Daniel's Law the rights of children—the rights of children to be safe and the rights of parents and carers to be able to ascertain information to protect their children. Finally, I thank all of our frontline staff in child safety in my department. I have received correspondence about the culture of fear that they experienced under five failed child safety ministers—

Ms Farmer interjected.

Ms CAMM: One is interjecting right now. I am not taking the interjection, and I will never take an interjection from a failed child safety minister. I thank our frontline services. I read the files of the number of children who are sexually abused day in and day out in our state. I read the briefs. I meet the frontline staff. I know what they are confronted with. This tool will help them in their work because it is a community safety tool. If we can pull the levers for everyone in our community to play a role in protecting

children that will help my frontline staff in child safety as well. I hear them. I understand where they are at. I understand the culture of fear that they have had to work under. It stops with the Crisafulli government because we support our front line. We value their work because we value protecting children.