



Speech By  
**Hon. Amanda Camm**


**MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 December 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Review into System Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Report**

 **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) (9.50 am): The first time you hold your child is the first time you feel love like no other: unconditional, bursting love. In that moment, your life is changed forever as you feel overwhelming joy, relief, fear, strength and the raw instinct to protect this little human who has just entered your world. Who would have thought you could feel all those things at once? Some will get to spend time off work to raise their children but more often the financial need to return to work simply catches up and this is amplified for single parents who have to earn money to continue to help that little person thrive. I know this, along with mother's guilt, all too well.

The first time you take your child to day care you go in with an overwhelming sense of anxiety mixed with optimism. Kids can sense your apprehension so for their sake you put on a brave face; they are going to have a great time. There is a knot in your stomach. You know the world is not always kind. Will they make friends? Will they adjust? From time to time, the horror thought of a predator coming in contact with her child is in the back of every mother's mind. Having seen what the Morcombes went through with the loss of Daniel, it is the worst nightmare that too many Queensland parents have considered.

As parents, we have to trust that the system will take care of and protect our little ones. In most cases, your child is so little that they cannot tell you how their day was so you rely on the centre, the system and the safeguards to work as they should. Every day when you collect them you ask: how are they getting on? Are they making friends? Are they eating? Are they toilet training well? Are they sleeping too long because you know they may not go to bed that night, which creates a vicious cycle? Are there photos of the day to reassure you that they had a great day? For the majority of parents, children have many years of learning and playing, with a little graduation celebration at the end of their time in child care before going on to kindy or prep.

However, as we have come to learn over the past few years and through this damning report, predators seek out these places where our most vulnerable children are—predators such as Ashley Paul Griffith. Along with many mums, dads and Queenslanders, I struggle with the reality of the acts of abhorrent violation of innocence that are too horrific to turn our minds to. My thoughts are with the parents, the carers and the children who will grow up to learn what happened to them. This is every parent's worst nightmare: when you drop your child off to day care you expect them to be safe and taken care of, but instead they are preyed upon by a monster who steals their childhood and destroys any trust you have in the people and the system that was supposed to nurture our most precious little ones. Worst of all, as we have learned this week from the QFCC's *In plain sight* report, it was an entirely preventable attack on our state's most vulnerable children because of a failure to implement a reportable conduct scheme.

We are all leaders in our communities. We are legislators. Everyone sitting in this House has an obligation to do everything in their power to protect children. As ministers, we take oaths. We are sworn in to bring forward legislation, to set policy, to direct our departments and to be accountable to Queenslanders. For seven years those opposite failed in their ministerial responsibilities and duties. The report speaks to the timeframe in which both Child Safety and attorneys-general had opportunities to introduce a reportable conduct scheme as in other states. The Crisafulli government is committed to safety across our communities and to the protection of children and young people. We will be held accountable by Queenslanders for doing so and those opposite need to be held accountable for their failure to do so.

Through this damning report, we know what happens when those in power do not act. Our children have paid the ultimate price and it is shameful and disgraceful. These are real consequences and horrendous outcomes. For every parent who wants justice, those who had the power to do something to prevent it should be held accountable. We will act. We will do everything to protect our children, just as we have by introducing Daniel's Law, just as we have by instigating the commission of inquiry into child safety and just as we will continue to do in reforming every system that we can to protect our state's children.