



Speech By  
**Hon. Andrew Powell**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2025

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

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (7.52 pm): On 7 December 2003, Daniel Morcombe left his home in Palmwoods and ventured out to Sunshine Plaza to buy Christmas presents for his family. He never returned home. Instead, his life was cruelly ripped away from him by a depraved, twice convicted paedophile. Daniel's parents, Bruce and Denise, were robbed of their beloved child. His brothers, Brad and Dean, spent their childhoods not knowing where their brother's remains were. Just about every Australian knows the Daniel Morcombe story. It broke the hearts of Australian parents and collectively it appalled an entire nation.

For me, it struck heart-wrenchingly close to home. In March of 2003, my wife, Taryn, and I and our then two kids moved to Daniel's community of Palmwoods. We knew the bus stop, we knew the streets and, like so many parents in Palmwoods, we heard that voice of parental angst lingering in the back of our heads asking whether this could have happened to our children, too. My eldest son's name is Daniel.

Long before I became an MP and long before the LNP first joined with them to push for no-body no-parole laws in 2016, it was through the Palmwoods community and my job in the Department of Child Safety that I first came to meet Bruce and Denise Morcombe. To be honest, I could probably spend this entire speech attempting to describe their courage, their strength and their unwavering determination, but no speech could do that justice. Instead, we need only look to the title of this bill—Daniel's Law. The legislation we will pass this evening cements Bruce and Denise Morcombe's years-long fight for a public sex offender register. It is yet another element of Daniel Morcombe's legacy. Because of Bruce, Denise and Daniel, generations of Queensland children will be better protected than ever before. If this register can spare just one child from harm and just one set of parents from what Bruce and Denise had to go through, it has been completely worth it.

The Morcombe family are Queensland treasures. This state is better for their advocacy. That is why Bruce and Denise have been our partners in this legislation. I am just devastated we did not get here sooner. We could have delivered this sooner—back in 2019—if those opposite had supported it.

The LNP believes that parents have a right to know if there are dangerous people in proximity to their children. Sending our children out into world will always come with risk, but parents should be armed with the information necessary to mitigate that risk to their children.

Daniel's killer was a serial paedophile with a long history of preying on children. He flew completely under the radar in the community. It is thought that even his own wife was blindsided by what was happening under her nose. He should not have been on the street to begin with, but at the very least the local community should have had the right to know. That is why Daniel's Law establishes the Queensland Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register, delivering on our

election commitment for a public sex offender register and honouring the activism of the Morcombe family. This bill is designed to build on the existing non-public register and existing information-sharing mechanisms. We recognise that any risk to the lives or sexual safety of children is unacceptable, and everything possible must be done to safeguard the lives and sexual safety of children. I do not believe we could ever be doing too much in this space.

Our new register aims to increase general community awareness and vigilance, give parents, guardians and anyone else who regularly cares for a child access to information that may assist them to keep that child safe, and simultaneously protect against vigilante action by maintaining safeguards on access to that register. The scheme is modelled on the proven Western Australian system which has been in place since 2012 and provides a three-tier disclosure framework for offenders.

Tier 1 of the website will be a public display of images and particular personal details of reportable offenders who have breached their obligations and whose whereabouts are, at that present moment in time, unknown to police. Offenders lose their right to privacy the second they breach their responsibilities and become an unacceptable risk to the community.

Tier 2 will allow Queenslanders to apply to temporarily view facial images of reportable offenders living in their general area. It will not show their personal details. It is limited to reportable offenders who pose the greatest risk of reoffending against children.

Tier 3 will be an application-based process whereby parents or people with ongoing access to a child are able to apply for confirmation about whether a particular person who has had or will have unsupervised access with their child is a reportable offender. There are concerns that this level of access will encourage vigilantism, and we have addressed that. Any information accessed or received through the public register must be treated as confidential. That means that, outside of mum and dad having a conversation with each other about information accessed to keep their child or children safe, recipients cannot share register information with others.

To that end, we are also introducing three new offences to prohibit misuse of register information. The penalty for vigilantism after register access will be up to 10 years imprisonment.

Bruce and Denise have shown a strength that most of us can only imagine, that we never even want to imagine. Through their heartbreak they have chosen to stand up, speak out and protect other children from suffering the same fate as their son. Daniel's Law is more than a piece of legislation; it is a legacy of love, courage and community—a community that will, again, gather this Friday. It reminds us that in the darkest moments good people can create light. I want to thank Bruce and Denise for everything they have done and continue to do for Queensland families. Because of their tireless efforts, generations of children will grow up safer and parents across our state will have greater peace of mind knowing Daniel's story has changed our future for the better.