



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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

Second Reading

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (4.35 pm): I rise to speak in strong support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. This bill is in honour of Daniel Morcombe—a forever-13-year-old boy who was tragically taken and murdered on the Sunshine Coast. As a child I remember seeing the investigation unfold on the news and asking my parents what had happened. It was one of those moments when I first realised that the world can be a cruel place at times. Terrible things happen to innocent people unfortunately. It was also when I learnt about stranger danger and the importance of personal safety.

Amidst that tragedy, I also learnt something far greater—that hope can emerge from heartbreak and that one person's legacy can change the lives of countless others. That is exactly what Denise and Bruce Morcombe have done for so many young Australians. When I was at Glasshouse Christian College I vividly remember the day the Morcombes visited our school to teach students and teachers about personal safety. Their compassion and courage left a lasting impression on all of us. We will never truly know how many lives have been saved because of the work of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, but we also do not know how many children might have been lost without it. However, we know there is more that needs to be done.

This bill delivers on a clear election commitment from the Crisafulli government to strengthen child safety in Queensland by providing parents and communities with the tools they need to make informed decisions to keep children safe. It amends the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 to include provisions for public disclosure of information about certain reportable offenders in specific, tightly controlled circumstances. Daniel's Law is a trailblazing piece of legislation. It is the first of its kind in Queensland. Its uniqueness lies in its balance of empowering parents and communities with information while protecting victims, families and the integrity of our justice system.

The bill establishes a new public register within the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004, providing a clear and consistent framework for how certain offender information may be disclosed to the public. Until now, Queensland police have maintained a non-public register of reportable offenders. Those offenders must keep police informed of their whereabouts and personal details for periods of 10 years, 20 years or life, depending on their offence. Police may already disclose some information where it is necessary to protect a child, but this is limited and case by case. This bill strengthens that framework. It introduces a transparent legislative process that allows a community in appropriate circumstances to access information that could help prevent harm to children.

This bill does not create a free-for-all database. It is a measured, responsible and safeguarded approach. It builds on proven models from Western Australia and South Australia, adapted to Queensland's policing and community landscape. It is underpinned by safeguards to prevent vigilantism, protect victim identity and ensure proportionality. At the same time it sends a clear and powerful message—child predators are not welcome in our communities and Queensland will always stand with victims and survivors.

The register operates through a three-tier framework, allowing access to information based on the seriousness of offending and the purpose of disclosure. The first is tier 1 with regard to missing or noncompliant offenders. This tier includes offenders who have breached their reporting obligations and whose whereabouts are unknown. Their photographs and certain personal details will be displayed on a public website, helping Queenslanders assist police in locating them.

Tier 2 allows Queensland residents to make a secure request to view photographs of particular offenders living in their locality. It applies to repeat or lifelong reportable offenders or those subject to supervision orders under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003. Access is carefully controlled—available for inspection only by the person who made the request—ensuring privacy while maintaining community safety.

Tier 3 is a parent and guardian disclosure scheme. This tier empowers parents, guardians and caregivers to apply for information about whether a person who has or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. Unsupervised contact includes both physical contact and communication via electronic means. This gives parents the right to ask the right questions before trusting someone with their child's safety. The model draws from Western Australia's and South Australia's frameworks but improves on them. In Western Australia, only parents or guardians can apply for tier 3 information. Queensland's approach extends eligibility to anyone with parental responsibility including step-parents, foster carers and kinship carers. Unlike South Australia, Queensland's register will be free to access because protecting a child should never depend on a parent's ability to pay for it. Where South Australia requires a pattern of contact before disclosure, Queensland's law includes both current and planned interactions, ensuring early intervention before harm can occur.

Daniel's Law is firm on transparency, but it is equally strong on protection and accountability. The bill excludes certain offenders from the public register; for example, those who committed offences as a child, those in witness protection programs or those in cases where a court has prohibited disclosure for safety or victim protection reasons. The Police Commissioner retains discretionary powers to determine whether information should be published, withheld or removed, guided by considerations such as the potential impact on victims, whether disclosure could prejudice an ongoing investigation or prosecution and whether publication serves the public interest and aligns with the purpose of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004.

This bill also makes it absolutely clear that misuse of the register will not be tolerated. It introduces three new offences to prevent vigilantism and unauthorised use of information: a penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment for anyone who harasses, intimidates or incites others to harm an identified offender; a penalty of up to three years imprisonment for unapproved publication of identifying information; and specific provisions ensuring any misuse of the register is treated as a serious offence. These penalties strike the right balance, giving the public access to information while ensuring it is only used for protection, never for revenge.

The community benefits of this bill are clear. It empowers families to make informed choices about who their children interact with; it builds public confidence in the justice system by promoting transparency and accountability; and it strengthens community vigilance, giving parents, schools, childcare centres and sporting clubs another layer of protection when it comes to child safety and supervision.

In Pumicestone, as in every Queensland community, parents want their children to grow up safe, to walk to school or play sport without fear. This bill gives them one more tool to ensure that happens. It reinforces our shared responsibility to create safe environments, from classrooms to playgrounds and from clubs to community groups. To ensure this system remains fair, effective and transparent, the bill legislates a five-year independent statutory review. An appropriately qualified person will assess how the register is operating and the report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This will ensure ongoing accountability and continuous improvement.

This bill is about empowering Queensland families, protecting children and restoring confidence in our justice system. It is evidence based, balanced and backed by clear safeguards. It shows that we can be tough on offenders while still being fair, transparent and responsible. The Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025 draws a firm line, one that says to every Queenslander: we will protect your children, we will uphold justice and we will stand up for victims. I commend the bill to the House.