



Speech By  
**Hon. Brent Mickelberg**


**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2025

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

**Second Reading**

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.01 pm): Today I rise to make a contribution in strong support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025, to be known as Daniel's Law. I say at the outset that the bill and these proposed laws are some of the most important and among those that I am most proud to support. Queenslanders rightly expect that the rights of victims and the rights of children are placed above the rights of offenders and predators. That is why Queenslanders, especially Queensland parents, should know that this government will fight tooth and nail to protect children and young people in our community from harm at the hands of monsters, and this is just the next step in our plan to do so.

Since taking the reins one year ago, our government has put in place swift and meaningful actions that are starting to turn the tide on the crime crisis. Our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws got tough on youth offenders and were followed by Jack's Law, named in honour of a brave young man from the Gold Coast. Daniel's Law is another step forward in our fight to restore safety in our communities. These proposed laws will provide a responsive and protective tool in the form of a public child sex offender register so that parents and the broader community can have awareness of the presence of convicted sex offenders and can take necessary steps to protect their children.

As we have heard, the proposed approach to the register is modelled on the framework established in Western Australia, which was the first Australian jurisdiction to establish a three-tier scheme such as is proposed in the bill. Under tier 1, facial photographs and certain details of a reportable offender will be publishable by the Police Commissioner if the offender has failed to comply with their reporting obligations and the police become unaware of the whereabouts of the offender. This information will be available to the broader public to ensure awareness so that parents can take any necessary additional precautions to ensure the safety of their children.

Tier 2 of the register allows a Queensland resident to request facial images of certain reportable offenders residing within their suburb or locality. This covers offenders with significant reporting obligations or those who have offended repeatedly against children. The commissioner may also authorise the publication of information relating to a reportable offender under this tier in circumstances where there is a known serious risk of harm to a child.

Lastly, tier 3 allows a parent, a guardian or a similarly relevant person who is responsible for the child to apply for information about a specific person who is or will be in unsupervised contact with their children. For instance, if a child is going for a sleepover at the house of a friend from school where they will be supervised by other parents, the parent can request information through the register about

whether a person living in that house is a reportable offender. If that specific person is a reportable offender then that information will be provided to the requester and further details may also be provided, as deemed necessary, at the discretion of the Police Commissioner to ensure the safety of the child.

However, it is important to note that the register will not publish photographs or personal details or release any information of an offender who is under the age of 18 or was under the age of 18 at the time they committed a child sex offence as long as—and this is important—they have not reoffended as an adult. In addition, the register will not publish that information for those in a witness protection program or those where a court has prohibited such a publication. There are appropriate safeguards in place within the bill. While I strongly support these laws, I stress that this is not an opportunity to encourage vigilantism. The need for parents to be fully informed about who their child comes into contact with is paramount. However, information that is obtained or accessed must be treated appropriately and confidentially and cannot be shared with others.

As we heard from the member for Southern Downs, under a decade of the former Labor government only one party sought to establish a sex offender register such as this and it was the then LNP opposition. In 2019 we moved a motion to establish a Queensland child sex offender register and the government at that time voted it down. In my view, they sided with offenders over the community.

In August 2023 I spoke in this place about how important it was that we implement any measures that would stop sex offenders from committing their heinous acts. At that time I spoke about my support for the establishment of a publicly accessible sex offender register. In my contribution to the parliament I spoke about the fact that in my own community there was a sex offender who had been convicted of multiple instances of storing and distributing exploitation material of children as young as three years old. That offender was subject to a sex offender reporting order but he was still able to access a state school because his child was a student at that school in my electorate. Under this legislation, that same offender would have their details accessible under tier 3 of the proposed register. If they were a repeat offender then they would also fall into tier 2. Being able to access details such as those is a significant step forward. I am so pleased to be part of a government that is pushing to make this law in Queensland.

Of course, none of this would have happened without two very special parents, and I take a moment to acknowledge both Bruce and Denise. Bruce and Denise Morcombe are Sunshine Coast locals. I have known them since before I was a member of parliament. I see them at the shops. I run into Bruce at Bunnings and at school events. Every year I am always proud to walk for Daniel alongside them. They are an institution not only in our community on the Sunshine Coast but for all Queenslanders and, indeed, all Australians. I know that my Sunshine Coast LNP colleagues, both state and federal, will continue to work with them in their endeavours to make children safer, as we have always done.

Daniel went to school at Sienna Catholic College in the Buderim electorate, although I think it was the Kawana electorate back then. While I know that news of Daniel's abduction and murder shocked every Australian, it shocked Sunshine Coast residents to the core. My own family are from Palmwoods, where Daniel would have walked home to. That is where we walk for Daniel each year. It is incredibly inspiring to see the way that Bruce and Denise have managed to turn their despair and anguish into a positive legacy. It is a legacy of a safer Queensland where young kids learn how to recognise, react and report. It is a strong legacy and an unforgettable legacy that has ensured that, after this debate, the laws that seek to protect every Queensland child from harm will bear Daniel's name.

I commend Bruce and Denise's advocacy, bravery and unwavering determination to see this change in Queensland in honour of Daniel. Their work in our schools is incredibly important. I have four young children—the eldest is 10 and the youngest is four—and I am very aware of the concerns of parents and the dangers that every young child faces on a day-to-day basis. I will do whatever I have to do to protect the welfare of my children, as I will any child in Queensland. I think that is what all parents expect and want.

I recognise that these laws are only one component of a more comprehensive solution. Just as parents will come to rely on information set out in this register, they will also continue to rely on a strong and active police presence. I pay tribute to our police and former police—many of whom sit in this parliament; I will not name them all—who work or have worked to ensure the monitoring of convicted sex offenders and/or the prosecution of those who offend against children. The work of those who now serve in this place, all Queensland police officers and all AFP officers who seek to prosecute the grubs who commit these crimes is incredibly difficult. I pay testament to their work, as I am sure all Queenslanders would do.

We need more education. I frequently have a discussion with my young kids when we drive under the overpass at Palmwoods where Daniel was last seen. The work that Bruce and Denise have done to drive better education and to open a conversation about these issues is incredibly important.

I support these laws and I urge everyone in this parliament to do so. This is about honouring Daniel's legacy but it is also for all Queenslanders who will be safer as a consequence. On Friday, I will again join with Bruce and Denise and our community—school communities, mums and dads and grandparents right across the Sunny Coast—for the Walk for Daniel and to remember Daniel, but to perhaps, even more importantly, remind my community and all Queenslanders of the importance of keeping Queensland's children safe. I acknowledge the work of the police minister. I commend the bill to the House.