




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2025

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

Second Reading

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (5.16 pm): Safety where you live is the key pillar that we took to the election and it is something we continue to strive for today. Safety goes well beyond the voter. Every child, even more so, deserves to be safe where they live. Every parent has a right to know that the people who are caring for or interacting with their kids are not going to be detrimental to their kids' safety.

The Morcombe family have been champions for child safety measures since the tragic disappearance and murder of their son Daniel on 7 December 2003. They have turned tragedy into championing a very valuable cause for the benefit of not only Queensland but also Australia at large. This change has been fought for for many years and those opposite had 10 years to introduce this.

What did they do when they had a chance to bring this forward in 2019? They voted against it. Now we are getting all the platitudes, but do not forget that those opposite had every opportunity to do this during the last 10 years but they could not bring themselves to do it. This makes me wonder if they truly believe in this legislation. Nonetheless, let us celebrate the fact that they have been relegated to opposition so the Crisafulli government can do this in our first year.

This bill recognises the advocacy of the Morcombe family and the Daniel Morcombe Foundation who have championed for greater public access to information about child sex offenders. In honour of Daniel Morcombe, this bill is named Daniel's Law. On Friday this week, 31 October, Queenslanders will don red shirts, fundraise and take part in the Day for Daniel, which is now Australia's largest child safety, education and awareness day. Schools, early learning centres, businesses and individuals will help spread this crucial message and empower young children with personal safety education.

This bill delivers on an election commitment to further strengthen sex offender laws in Queensland to protect children, prioritise community safety and put the rights of parents and families ahead of sexual predators. As stated in the submission from Bruce and Denise Morcombe—

Daniel's legacy is about keeping kids safe. We believe Daniel's Law will return the balance and provide additional tools for the community to do that.

Any harm to a child is unacceptable and we must do more to prevent it and to safeguard our children.

Through this bill, the Crisafulli government introduces a new framework for the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act which includes a three-tier public register for child sex offenders, the first of its kind in Queensland. This register is broadly modelled on Western Australia's public notification scheme and South Australia's laws released in 2024.

Tier 1 includes a public website notifying of missing, noncompliant offenders who have breached their obligations and whose whereabouts are unknown to police. This webpage will include facial images and particular personal details of missing offenders, and an offender's details must be removed

as soon as practically possible once the offender is located by police. This tier is for the worst of the worst of people who may walk amongst us. Tier 2 includes a local area search function, allowing a Queensland resident, on application to the Police Commissioner, to temporarily view facial images of reportable offenders within their general locality. Tier 3 is a parent and guardian disclosure system allowing people to apply for confirmation about whether a particular person who has or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. Unsupervised contact is defined as including physical contact, time spent in close proximity or any form of communication in person or electronically without another adult present. Under all three tiers, the Police Commissioner will have the final say on whether to publish or disclose information.

The public register will not publish any information on an offender who is under 18 years of age or who is a person in a witness protection program or where the court has prohibited the publication or release of information. This new framework builds on the existing non-public register and existing information-sharing mechanisms to provide families with additional information to allow them to take action to keep their children safe. As every parent or carer should be able to send a child to school or child care or have them partake in sport and community activities and return home safely, everything must be done to safeguard children against risks to their safety or life. It is important to also note that any information received from the public register must be treated as confidential by the recipient and cannot be shared with others.

This bill has also been designed to guard against the misuse of offender information by introducing offences to target misconduct, such as sharing information unlawfully. Three new offences have been added to include a penalty of 10 years imprisonment for a person who engages in or incites another person to intimidate or harass another person they believe is an identified offender, a penalty of a maximum of three years imprisonment for intimidation or harassment of an offender that is not intentional, and a penalty of three years imprisonment for a person who displays, distributes or publishes any identifying information obtained from the public register without the approval of the Police Commissioner. We do not support people taking the law into their own hands, and that is why these important safeguards are in place, along with this legislation. Importantly, a five-year statutory review of the public register is to be carried out by an independent and appropriately qualified person.

As the member for Scenic Rim said earlier, this is a tool, not a guarantee. It only captures those who are known child sex offenders in the system. Nonetheless, it is an important tool and something that will help parents ensure their kids are kept safe. The Crisafulli government prioritises community safety. By introducing Daniel's Law, we are empowering families to make informed decisions and be proactive to protect their children. I thank all of our hardworking men and women in blue in the Queensland Police Service who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities and our kids safe. We support victims and we are a government that is tough on crime. Importantly, we support measures that will help keep our kids safe. I commend the bill to the House.