




Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**

**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

---

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2025

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

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.23 pm): I rise to address the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. This legislation represents another important reform by the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government to protect Queenslanders, to strengthen community safety and to deliver on our commitment to restore trust, confidence and transparency in the laws that safeguard our families and children. It is a clear indication of this LNP state government's belief that the rights of children and families must always come before the rights of offenders.

Fundamentally, Daniel's Law is about one thing: ensuring parents, guardians and carers have the information they need to keep their children safe. It is about empowering families with access to vital information and reaffirming the fundamental principle that the safety of our children will never be compromised. This legislation delivers on our government's election commitment to further strengthen Queensland's sex offender laws by establishing a new three-tier Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register. This is the first public register of its kind in Queensland, and it builds on the strong foundations already in place through our existing offender reporting framework.

This legislation also stands as a lasting tribute to the extraordinary work and advocacy of Bruce and Denise Morcombe. The Morcombes have dedicated their lives to championing the cause of child safety since the tragic loss of their son Daniel more than two decades ago. Through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation they have inspired countless Queenslanders to be more vigilant and to take practical steps to protect children from harm. It is an extraordinary contribution and legacy through such traumatic circumstances that they were then able to champion these important initiatives and do some important child protection work not only across Queensland but across Australia as well. It has been an extraordinary contribution they have made to our state and to Australia, particularly given the circumstances they have endured over a long period of time. It was a privilege to see Bruce and Denise Morcombe once again at the 2025 Children's Week launch and awards, hosted by Children's Rights Queensland. It is fitting, therefore, that this legislation is named Daniel's Law, honouring Daniel's memory and the tireless efforts of his parents to make Queensland a safer place for every child.

The existing Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 provides the framework for managing reportable offenders in Queensland. Under that act, the Queensland Police Service administers the non-public child protection register, which holds detailed personal information about offenders who pose a risk to children. These reportable offenders are already subject to some of the longest reporting obligations in the nation—10 years, 20 years or life, depending on their circumstances. However, while this system has been effective for law enforcement purposes, the community has limited visibility of offenders who may pose a risk. Members of the public cannot currently access the existing register, even though they may have a genuine need to know whether someone interacting with their child is a convicted offender. This legislation addresses that concern. It gives Queensland parents and guardians the ability to make informed decisions and take proactive steps to protect their children.

The new public register builds on existing mechanisms and extends access to key information in a safe, controlled and responsible way. Daniel's Law strikes the right balance. It recognises that every risk to the safety of a child is unacceptable, but it also ensures that the release of information occurs in a measured and lawful manner, preventing misuse or vigilante behaviour.

The new framework establishes three tiers of access to information, each designed for a specific purpose and with appropriate safeguards. Firstly, tier 1 is the missing noncompliant offender website. This tier will publicly display the facial images and personal details of offenders who have breached their reporting obligations and whose whereabouts are unknown to police. It will ensure communities can play a role in assisting law enforcement to locate these individuals and prevent further risk.

Secondly, tier 2 is the locality search function. This tier allows Queensland residents to request access to images of certain high-risk offenders living in their local area. It applies to repeat or lifelong reportable offenders as well as those subject to supervision orders under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003. Importantly, it allows police to include an offender in search results if that individual presents a serious risk to children in the community.

Finally, tier 3 is the parent and guardian disclosure scheme. This gives parents, guardians and those with ongoing parental responsibility the ability 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 includes both physical contact and electronic communication without another adult present. This tier is perhaps the most empowering feature of Daniel's Law. It allows parents to act on their instincts, to seek reassurance and to take preventive action before harm can occur.

The Queensland framework has been carefully designed to be stronger and more transparent than those operating in other jurisdictions. It draws on lessons from the Western Australian and South Australian models but includes distinct improvements. Unlike Western Australia, Queensland's tier 2 system includes a clear legislative process for applications, ensuring transparency and accountability in how information is accessed. It also captures a broader range of offenders, including those convicted of non-contact offences such as possessing child exploitation material, acknowledging the harm these crimes inflict on victims.

In addition, Queensland's register extends eligibility for tier 3 applications beyond parents and guardians to include anyone with parental responsibility, reflecting the reality that many children are cared for by grandparents, step-parents or other primary carers. Access under tier 3 will result in a simple yes or no confirmation, ensuring families receive the information they need without compromising police investigations or the safety of others.

We know that the effectiveness of such a register depends on strong oversight and safeguards, and this legislation delivers both. The public register will not include information about child offenders, offenders who committed offences as minors, those in witness protection, or cases where a court has specifically prohibited identification. This ensures the register remains focused on protecting children from adult offenders who pose an ongoing risk.

The bill grants the Police Commissioner the authority to determine whether to publish, withhold or remove information from the register, taking into account important factors such as the impact on victims, potential prejudice to ongoing investigations or prosecutions, and the broader public interest.

To prevent the misuse of information, the bill introduces new offences with strong penalties. It will be a crime punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment for any person who intentionally intimidates, harasses or incites others to harass someone they believe to be an identified offender. Even where intent cannot be proven, conduct that is likely to intimidate or harass carries a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment. It will also be an offence carrying up to three years imprisonment for any person to share, display or publish identifying information obtained from the public register without authorisation. These offences make it clear that this government will not tolerate misuse of the register or any form of vigilantism.

In addition, the legislation also includes a mandatory five-year statutory review of the register to ensure it remains effective, balanced and fit for purpose. An independent reviewer will be appointed to evaluate the operation of the register, with their report to be tabled in this parliament.

This is evidence-based, carefully designed and community-driven reform. It empowers parents and families, it strengthens police capability, and it restores confidence in the justice system. More importantly, it also places child safety where it belongs: at the centre of our laws and our community values. Under the Crisafulli LNP state government Queenslanders can be confident that we are delivering on our promise to restore safety, protect families and uphold the rights of victims. It is also part of our broader suite of reforms to strengthen our criminal justice system, enhance community safety and deliver the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for.

Queenslanders want to feel safe in their homes, in their communities and in their schools. They want to know that they can see their children grow up free from harm, and this legislation helps make that possible. It empowers communities with information, ensures transparency, and sends a clear message that this government will always put the protection of children above the rights of offenders.

In concluding my contribution today, through Daniel's Law the LNP state government is reaffirming our collective responsibility to safeguard the next generation. We stand united with the Morcombes, with Queensland families and with all those who believe that child safety is not negotiable. Daniel's Law will not only strengthen our justice system; it will strengthen the bond of trust between government, law enforcement and the community. Ultimately it is about empowering parents, protecting children and delivering safety where Queenslanders live. I commend the bill to the House.