




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2025

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

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.13 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill. It would be remiss of me not to make a comment about a minister who claims to be so concerned about child safety yet pulled the trigger and said, 'Go,' on a Unify system that is supposed to manage the safety of our most vulnerable children but instead has put 16,000 children at risk.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Mansfield, please return to the long title of the bill. Thank you.

Ms McMILLAN: At the outset, I remind this House that the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2025 outlines that the most likely person to offend against a child is a person known to the child, including other children, young people and family members. I spent 13 years as a school leader and 24 years as a teacher, and, overwhelmingly, of the number of young people who reported child sexual abuse to me, most were abused by people who were known to them or their family. The world's largest child sexual abuse perpetration prevalence study conducted by the University of New South Wales, Jesuit Social Services and the Australian Human Rights Institute in 2023 affirmed what countless survivors have said: the men who abused them were well connected to their families and relatively wealthy, and their behaviour was secretive and easily overlooked. We must ensure through the passing of this legislation and the publication of a register that the Queensland community is not given false hope nor afforded a false sense of security. A much more evidence-based framework is needed in response to this very complex issue of child abuse—it is a very calculated issue, a very organised issue and an issue that we know affects many children in our community.

The safety of our children is of the highest importance. This value, of course, is at the core of this bill and it honours the loss of Daniel Morcombe and the ongoing work of his parents, Bruce and Denise. I cannot imagine the grief that Bruce and Denise have suffered over all of these years with the loss of their beautiful son Daniel. I look forward to walking alongside Bruce and Denise on Friday morning, on behalf of the opposition, in memory of Daniel. I commend the work of the Morcombes through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and their tireless dedication to helping keep children safe, particularly in the work that they have done in our schools across Queensland.

The Day for Daniel is this Friday, and it is the largest child safety education and awareness day in Australia. Denise herself has said that more than two million people participate in the event alone. I know that many of the local schools in my electorate of Mansfield will march and walk to school in memory of Daniel on Friday morning.

I acknowledge that the passage of Daniel's Law will be a deeply meaningful and significant moment for Bruce and Denise. It is a bill that will take a step forward for child safety, and it will do so through the three tiers of the legislation. Tier 1 is the missing noncompliant offender website, where the

Police Commissioner will be able to publish personal information on reportable offenders who have breached their obligation and whose whereabouts are unknown to police on the publicly accessible part of the website. Tier 2 is the locality search, where Queenslanders may apply to view images of certain reportable offenders who reside in their local community. Tier 3 of the legislation allows Queensland residents who are parents or guardians to apply for a disclosure of information about whether a person who has had or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender.

The bill also creates deterrents for vigilantism it might unintentionally inspire via the creation of offences in relation to the register's misuse, including: an offence carrying a maximum penalty of 10 years targeting conduct intending to, or inciting others to, intimidate or harass another person they believe or suspect is an identified offender; an offence carrying a maximum penalty of three years targeting conduct that is likely to, or likely to incite others to, intimidate or harass another person they believe or suspect is an identified offender; and an additional offence carrying a maximum penalty of three years for the unauthorised sharing of information obtained through the public register.

This bill also provides liability protections to workers involved in the administration of the public register, as well as legislates a statutory review as soon as possible after five years of the register starting operations. Again, I am concerned about the five-year review. It is not appropriate. It needs to be much sooner than five years. Any policy that we implement in this place should be reviewed more regularly and sooner to ensure the levers we are pulling to manage such a complex social issue are working and evidence based.

It is important to note, in addition to that concern, that a number of organisations raised concerns about this bill. This includes the Crime and Corruption Commission, which said that there was a lack of evidence to support the proposition that the register will provide protection to children. There were a number of other submitters who raised the issue of populist politics versus real, evidenced-based strategies that will improve the safety of children in our community.

The commission also voiced concerns about whether the resources of the Queensland Police Service would be adequate to manage the register. It is reported that up to 100 QPS employees will be needed to administer this register, at a cost of \$17.5 million. Administratively, we really need to be asking the question about how the QPS will manage the register, how we spend the money and what outcomes we are expecting, because that is a lot of QPS employees off the beat to manage this register that we know is undercooked and not ready for release—another Unify example.

It is also a concern echoed by the Labor opposition. We would urge the government to ensure QPS receives the resources it needs to manage the public register as well as to establish it. This is a requirement. It is not a 'nice to have'. It is absolutely essential that the QPS has the resources it needs to ensure that public safety is improved and that parents are given the confidence that their children will be safer.

The Labor opposition will be watching the rollout of this register very closely, as we are with Unify, as we all know what happened the last time the LNP was in government. It removed 1,700 convicted child sex offenders from police monitoring overnight. The now Premier was in the 2014 cabinet responsible for changing the laws that led to that incident. That is the LNP's record on this subject, and they all know it. In contrast, Labor has a record of strengthening protections for Queensland children. We doubled the period child sex offenders would be monitored by police. The then Labor government made Taskforce Orion a permanent fixture of the QPS's Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group. We almost doubled the resources for the child protection offender register since 2015.

Additionally, we passed new legislation to expand police powers to enter the residence of a reportable offender to undertake a digital device inspection. We required reportable offenders to disclose the use of their anonymising software, their vault and black hole applications, and their media access control address. We introduced a new offence, with penalties of up to five years imprisonment, of failing to comply with a requirement to produce a digital device for a device inspection. We required reportable offenders who have been convicted of failing to comply with their reporting obligations to report those details to police within seven days. That is Labor's record on protecting children. With a record like that, we know what it takes to protect our most vulnerable: our children.

It is paramount and we will always back measures to increase the protection of our children. If this parliament does nothing else in the 58th term, it must do just that: we must keep our children safe. I know that this is the intent of this bill which is why the Queensland Labor opposition will be supporting the bill, but it is not without concern. The bill is not without flaws and I believe that the bill needs a far more rigorous framework.

(Time expired)

