




Speech By
Hon. Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2025

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

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (5.07 pm): I rise to contribute to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025—a bill that delivers on the government's election commitment to further strengthen sex offender laws with the establishment of a new three-tier Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register to protect Queensland children and to put the rights of parents and families ahead of sexual predators.

We debate a lot of legislation in this place and every now and then a piece of legislation comes before this parliament that unites us. It does not happen very often, but this is one of those occasions. It is a bill that has united this chamber, and we need to recognise that. Not only do I want to recognise Bruce and Denise today, but I also want to recognise Bernadette Radford, or Bernadette Strow as I knew her back then. Bernie started as a roster clerk at Townsville Police Station, joined the job and has been with Bruce and Denise from day one. I want to acknowledge your work, Bernie, and thank you for your journey and your support of Bruce and Denise through all those many years.

When I was the OIC at Townsville police station, Bruce and Denise would come around on their annual tour. It started as a journey, in trying to get that message across. It was a long road, but I can say today that that message has got through. My kids now talk about the day they wore that red shirt to school to honour the memory of Daniel. It has worked. It has been worth it. All of that hard work you have done over many years has paid dividends in raising the awareness of child safety in this state. There is no greater responsibility, when you think about our role in protecting our most vulnerable. Certainly, our children should be protected at all costs. There is an onus on us to ensure that. This bill should have been passed many years ago. Thank goodness we have finally got to the stage where we will pass it tonight. To name it 'Daniel's Law' is fitting.

We know that the passing of this law will not bring Daniel back, but if it saves one life then it will be worth it. We will know that we played a role in passing this law which protects children in this state. That is an enormous responsibility. This public register is the first of its kind in Queensland. The bill establishes a new framework, designed to build on the existing non-public register, to give parents and guardians information that allows them to take action at an individual level. It is sad that we need those safeguards, but we should have those safeguards because these offenders are in our communities right now. They belong in jail, and when they are brought to justice they should rot in jail.

Let's do everything we can to raise awareness in this state, to put in place the mechanisms and safeguards we need to give parents the comfort of the ability to know who is in their community and to know that if their kids go down to the local park or ride their bike down to the local shop they can do so safely. Surely, we want to be able to get back to people not having to wonder if there is some vile predator lurking around the corner, waiting to grab their kid.

Over many years I delivered death messages to parents who had lost children. The devastation at the moment you deliver that message—I see the member for Mundingburra nodding—is something you never forget. They carry a scar on their heart forever, as I am sure Bruce and Denise do. Bruce and Denise, know that we are all collectively in this chamber with you on this journey. We support you. We will be with you tomorrow. We will carry forward this legacy and know that we played a very small part in making Queensland a safer place for our children.