




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 9 December 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Review into System Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Report

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.40 am): Our government places the utmost importance on keeping children safe. We promised Queenslanders we would restore safety in our communities. We are delivering stronger laws and better oversight and we are putting Queensland children first. We promised to shine a light on this state's broken child protection system. That is why our government tasked the Child Death Review Board with conducting a review into system responses to child sexual abuse. That work has been ongoing for the last 12 months and yesterday the Attorney-General and I released the final report.

The findings are damning and it makes for harrowing reading. The review identified catastrophic failures in responses to child sex abuse under the former government. It uncovered up to five missed opportunities to identify or stop one of Australia's worst paedophiles, Ashley Paul Griffith. Every child deserves to be safe. Every parent deserves to trust that the system works and will do all it can to protect their children. Under Labor that trust was broken.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for McConnell. The 2017 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommended the establishment of a reportable conduct scheme. Those opposite sat on their hands and broke multiple promises to deliver it. As a result, Ashley Paul Griffith was able to remain undetected until 2023. Labor's failure to act left Queensland children unprotected and left Queensland behind other jurisdictions as one of the few states without a reportable conduct scheme eight years after it was recommended by the royal commission—eight years! Our government has already fast-tracked commencement of the scheme. It will now start from 1 July next year, requiring certain organisations to report, investigate and respond to allegations of child abuse. It is just one of the actions—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection and the head shake from the member for McConnell. This is important.

Mr Bleijie: You can take a gesticulated interjection.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I took the shake of the head.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There was no interjection. I take offence. I ask that that be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw, Mr Speaker. I would shake my head too with a record like that. Our government has already fast-tracked—

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. It is just one of the actions we have already taken to make the system safer for every family. Earlier this year we established a commission of inquiry into the child safety system. The inquiry has already heard from foster carers, kinship carers and stakeholders about the challenges they face protecting our most vulnerable.

We have passed Daniel's Law through this House. Daniel's Law will create Queensland's first public child sex offender register, empowering parents to better protect their kids, but there is more to do and we must deliver stronger safeguards to keep children safe. The final report released yesterday makes 28 recommendations to better protect Queensland children. It highlighted gaps in the blue card system and weaknesses across that system such as fragmented responses and poor information sharing. We are carefully considering the recommendations. I acknowledge the board, in particular chair Luke Twyford, for their work on the review. No system will be bulletproof, there will always be monsters, but we must all commit to doing everything we can to deliver the best system possible.