




Speech By  
**David Lee**

**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

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

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.27 pm): I rise to speak to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. This bill is named Daniel's Law in memory of a forever-13-year-old boy, Daniel Morcombe, and in recognition of the tireless and courageous advocacy of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Thank you, Denise and Bruce, for standing up for the safety and protection of Queensland's children. I also wish to acknowledge the advocacy of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Hon. Dan Purdie, and the diligence of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee.

This bill implements a 2024 pre-election commitment to Queenslanders to strengthen sex offender laws. We are doing exactly what we said we would do. The objectives of this bill are: to increase community awareness by giving parents and carers access to help protect children through a three-tier public register under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004; to guard against the misuse of offender information by introducing offences targeted at conduct likely to incite others to intimidate or harass another person they believe or suspect is an identified offender; and to protect against the unauthorised sharing of information obtained through the register.

This bill is broadly consistent with the Western Australian public child sex offender register which has been operating since 2012 and the South Australian register which is expected to be operational by the end of this year. South Australia's public child sex offender register is like Western Australia's, with some variations. The purpose of the Queensland act is to provide for the protection and safety of children, reduce the likelihood that the offender will reoffend and facilitate the investigation and prosecution of any future offences that the offender may commit. The existing act only provides for a non-public child sex offender register. This bill proposes a publicly accessible child sex offender register with similar information to the non-public register, such as the offender's name, details of each reportable offence the offender has been convicted of or charged with and the address or locality at which they reside. This bill does not amend the existing section 5 definition of a reportable offender.

The public register will operate independently of the existing non-public register and the registers will be administered by different units within the QPS. This bill introduces a new part 5AA to the act, providing for a three-tier community protection and public child sex offender register. The tiered public register is designed as a proactive tool for parents, guardians and the community. Tier 1 of the register provides for missing noncompliant offenders. Only tier 1 information will be publicly available without the requirement for an application. Pursuant to existing restrictions on the non-public register, the public register will not enable the publication or disclosure of information about an offender who is under the age of 18 years or who was under the age of 18 years at the time they committed the child sexual offences and has not reoffended or engaged in particular conduct as an adult; about an offender who is participating in a witness protection program; or where a court has prohibited identification of the offender or the disclosure or publication of personal information about the offender. Under tier 1 the

Police Commissioner will be authorised to release information to the public via a website. The website will display the reportable offender's name, or any other known names; the reportable offender's date of birth; details of any tattoos or distinguishing marks that the reportable offender has; the make, model, colour and registration number of any vehicle the reportable offender owns or has driven on at least seven days within a one-year period; and the make, model colour and registration number of any caravan or trailer the reportable offender generally resides in or that was attached to a vehicle driven by a reportable offender if the offender has driven the vehicle on at least seven days within a one-year period.

A new section 74AB of the bill will require a photograph or digital image of the offender and a description of the general locality of any premises where the offender resides or each locality where the offender can generally be found. Under the new part 5AA, the Police Commissioner must have regard to the following matters: the effect the publication, removal or provision of identifying information might have on a victim of an offence committed by the offender; whether the publication, removal or provision of the identifying information would be likely to prejudice a criminal proceeding in relation to the offender or an investigation by a law enforcement agency into an alleged contravention of law by the offender; additionally, whether the publication, removal or provision of the identifying information is in the public interest and consistent with the purpose of the legislation. Any other matter the Police Commissioner considers relevant will be taken into account.

Tier 2 of the register is for a locality search for serious offenders. Under clause 8 of the bill, the tier 2 public register will operate by allowing Queensland residents to apply to temporarily view facial images of reportable offenders residing in their general locality. Eligibility for inclusion in tier 2 is restricted to those reportable offenders who have lifetime reporting obligations and are subject to supervision orders under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 or are deemed to be a serious risk offender by the Police Commissioner pursuant to section 74AG(5). A locality is defined within the legislation as meaning the general locality where the person resides in the state.

A tier 3 public register provides for a parent/guardian disclosure scheme. Parents or guardians with ongoing parental responsibility will be able to apply for confirmation of whether a particular person who has had or will have unsupervised contact with their child or children is a reportable offender under the act. The information on the tier 3 register aligns with the Western Australian model which is simply limited to a yes or no answer in response to whether the person is a reportable offender.

To mitigate the risk of misuse of the information on the public register, new and targeted offences are introduced directed at a broad range of vigilante conduct. The bill provides for an offence carrying a maximum 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 register.

Clause 10 of this bill provides for the retrospective operation of the public register. It applies to a reportable offender whether the person became a reportable offender before or after the commencement of the new part 5AA. The bill requires the statutory review of the public register to occur as soon as practicable after five years of operation, with a report to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. In closing, the Crisafulli government is doing exactly what we said we would do: strengthening child sex offender laws through a three-tier public child sex offender register named Daniel's Law. I commend Daniel's Law to the House.