




Speech By  
**Donna Kirkland**

**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

---

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2025

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

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (8.51 pm): Today I rise in support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025, appropriately referred to as Daniel's Law. This bill resonates with families across the state of Queensland—families who for the last 20 years have stood beside the Morcombe family in their pursuit of justice. Today we deliver the legislation that brings transparency, accountability and safety to our communities. Twenty years into the future some may ask: why is this bill called Daniel's Law? Who is Daniel? Daniel Morcombe went missing on 7 December 2003 on his way to buy Christmas presents for his family. Daniel did not come home that day, having fallen victim to a known repeat child sex offender who had remained undetected within the community.

Daniel's parents, Bruce and Denise Morcombe, have been relentless in their pursuit to honour Daniel, with their mission to protect children and families across Queensland. Their efforts have been instrumental in helping to prevent future heinous child sex offences. This legislation is the result of Bruce and Denise's persistence and their faith that a government would stand beside them to deliver laws that empower families, parents, carers and communities to make more informed decisions about the safety of their children. This legislation is the first of its kind for Queensland and it fulfils an LNP Crisafulli government election commitment to deliver on the Morcombe family's advocacy. As a mother and a grandmother, I want to acknowledge and to thank Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their strong advocacy and their work through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation in shining a light on the need for these law reforms.

The existing non-public child sex offender register contains a range of personal details about child sex offenders, specifically those who pose a risk to the lives of children, referred to as reportable offenders. Reportable offenders are required to keep police informed of their whereabouts and personal details for a set period of time. In Queensland, individuals classified as reportable offenders face the most extended reporting obligations in Australia, spanning 10 years, 20 years or even life, yet currently members of the community cannot access the information stored on the non-public register.

The bill we present today addresses what the community has called for: a publicly available child sex offender register. This public register will operate through the Queensland Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register website, to be established by the Queensland Police Service. Shocking as it is, statistics indicate that approximately one in four children have experienced a sexual offence, and that trend is rising. Our communities across Queensland, including Rockhampton, Central Queensland and beyond, deserve access to tools that will inform and, in doing so, help protect their children.

To ensure this legislation was well rounded and aligned with its intent, a measured and considered approach was taken. Through the committee process and stakeholder engagement, the bill has been structured into three tiers of delivery framework. Tier 1 is a public registry containing personal

details and photographs of missing and/or noncompliant reportable child sex offenders. The registry is updated by the Queensland Police Service after all other measures to locate offenders have been exhausted. Tier 2 provides a locality search function that allows community members to request facial recognition data of potential repeat and/or high-risk reportable offenders within the vicinity of their residence. Tier 3 is a significant provision that enables carers, parents and families to request information about any person who has unsupervised access to their children either in person or electronically, taking into account the dangers of electronic predators. The QPS will also follow up with families, providing support and materials to help teach protective behaviours. These legislative provisions give our communities supplementary powers to identify risks and to make informed decisions for the safety of their loved ones.

To illustrate, consider a scenario where Bill and Jane—fictional names—have divorced and share custody of two children. Bill has a new partner and Jane is concerned about this person's history with children. Under tier 3, Jane can request a check before allowing unsupervised access to her children. This provision could also apply to new carers, tutors, sports instructors et cetera. South Australia has passed similar laws but includes barriers—that is, community members must pay to access tier 2 information and tier 3 requires at least three separate requests over 12 months before any information is released. Queensland has removed these obstacles, ensuring our communities can access the child sex offender registry without unnecessary hindrance. For Bruce and Denise Morcombe and the two million people across the country who march to recognise the need to educate, inform and be vigilant in the safety of our children, your efforts over the last 20 years have not been in vain. Today this legislation is about protecting future victims, and I wholeheartedly commend this bill to the House.