




Speech By
Glen Kelly

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2025

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

Second Reading

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (8.41 pm): I rise to speak tonight on the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. This is a very important bill. It has been a long time coming and the Morcombe family has fought hard for this for over a decade. As a dad I cannot even begin to imagine what the family has been through. What happened to Daniel was every parent's worst nightmare, yet instead of turning away from the world they have spent years standing up for other families and pushing for change so that no-one else has to go through what they did. That takes strength, courage and purpose, and I want to thank them for what they have done. Ten years is a long time to fight for something, but the Morcombes never gave up. Today their hard work and determination have helped bring us to this point where we will finally make a real change.

This bill will establish Queensland's first three-tier Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register, something that will give parents and communities better tools to protect their kids. It is based on models that have worked in places like Western Australia and South Australia, where they have shown it can be done effectively and responsibly, giving the public access to vital information without risking victims or encouraging vigilante behaviour. This is something that matters deeply to people right across my electorate of Mirani. Whether you are a parent in Mount Morgan, the Pioneer Valley or anywhere in between, every mum and dad just wants to know their kids are safe. It is only fair they should be able to find out if someone around them poses a risk.

As a parent, my No. 1 job is to keep my girls safe. Sure, kids learn from little knocks like scraped knees, the odd broken arm, riding too fast on their bikes, riding too fast on their horses, having the odd fall off, but that is part of growing up. No parent should ever have to worry about something truly serious happening to their child because someone dangerous was living nearby and they did not know. This bill is about giving parents the right to know. It is about giving families peace of mind and making our communities safer.

We have all heard the concerns about these kinds of registers, including protecting the identity of victims and making sure the information is not misused. That is why this bill has the right checks and balances in place. Here is how it will work. Tier 1 will be a public webpage showing photos and key details of offenders who have broken the rules and gone missing so the public can help police and keep an eye out. Tier 2 will let Queensland residents request to see the photos of offenders living in their area, but only those who are repeat or serious offenders. Tier 3 will allow parents or guardians to find out if someone who has contact with their child is a known offender. At the same time, the law makes sure that certain information will be protected—for example, information relating to child offenders, witness protection participants, or anyone a court has specifically ordered to remain confidential.

We also have to be realistic about human behaviour. When you are dealing with crimes this serious—crimes against children—emotions run high, and rightly so. People are angry, they are protective and they want justice, but we cannot let them turn to vigilante action. That is why this bill includes penalties of up to 10 years in jail for anyone who harasses or intimidates someone because they are on the register. We have a justice system for a reason. If people serve their time and they are working to turn their lives around, they deserve that chance. This bill give parents information to keep their kids safe, not to encourage mobs or revenge. We are trusting Queenslanders to use this information responsibly, and I believe they will.

There is also a built-in five-year review to make sure the system is doing what it is supposed to do: protect kids and keep communities safe. This register will not stop every crime—nothing will—but it will give parents more knowledge, and knowledge is power when it comes to protecting your children. This bill puts children before offenders. It puts the safety of Queensland families front and centre.

I say again to Bruce and Denise Morcombe: thank you. Your persistence and your courage have made a real difference. This bill is a step towards a safer Queensland, and it is because of people like you who never give up. The Morcombe family is looking out for children just like my children, a 14-year-old daughter and a 12-year-old daughter, whom I am very proud of. This bill will protect them until they become adults and they can look after themselves. I commend this bill to the House.