




Speech By

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

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.17 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. I think it is telling that a significant number of Labor members have not spoken on this bill including members of their leadership. The Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the shadow treasurer have all been silent. Why? Why do they not want to speak on this bill? I see a few members opposite have jumped back on the list, but these members have not: Murrumba, Woodridge, Waterford, Miller, Ipswich West, Algester, Logan, Bundaberg, Ipswich, Kurwongbah, Bundamba, Aspley, Lytton, Mount Ommaney and Sandgate. That is 15 members who have elected not to speak on this very important bill. Where do these members stand on these laws? I say to those members that there is still time to jump back on the list today.

The Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025 delivers on the Crisafulli government's election commitment to further strengthen sex offender laws with the establishment of a new three-tier public register to protect Queensland children and to put the rights of parents and families ahead of sexual predators. The public register will make information more accessible to the community and allow parents, guardians and those exercising parental responsibility to access information in order to make informed decisions about who has or will have contact with their child. The bill recognises the advocacy of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and Bruce and Denise Morcombe, who have championed greater public access to information about child sex offenders in the community. The bill is named Daniel's Law in honour of Daniel Morcombe.

Under the existing legislative framework, the Queensland Police Service administers the existing non-public child protection register. This non-public register contains a range of personal details about child sex offenders and particular offenders who pose a risk to the lives of children. These reportable offenders are required to keep police informed of their whereabouts and personal details for a set period. Reportable offenders are liable to the longest reporting obligation periods in Australia of 10 years, 20 years or life, depending on the offender's age at the time of the offence and whether they have repeat prior convictions. Members of the community cannot access information stored on the non-public register.

The QPS will have powers under this bill and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to monitor compliance and engage in investigative and enforcement strategies where necessary. The act currently permits information about a reportable offender to be provided to a person, including a parent or guardian of a child, if it is reasonably necessary and appropriate to reduce a risk to one or more children or of children generally. Additionally, the power can be used in circumstances where police become aware of changes to a reportable offender's contact with a child or children.

This bill establishes a new framework within the act to enable the release of particular information about particular offenders through the public register. The bill is designed to build on the existing non-public register and existing information-sharing mechanisms. The public register will give parents, guardians and other persons who care for a child access to information that may allow them to act at an individual level to keep children safe. Importantly, the bill has been designed to guard against misuse of offender information by introducing offences targeted at conduct intended to or likely to incite others to intimidate or harass another person they believe or suspect is an identified offender as well as against the unauthorised sharing of information accessed or obtained through the public register. The public register also operates through the Queensland Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register website to be established by the QPS.

The policy intent of the public register is to make information available to communities so they can remain vigilant in their local communities. As such, the public register is designed to strike an appropriate balance of community safety and the protection of children. While recognising that any risk to the lives or sexual safety of children is unacceptable and that everything must be done to safeguard children against these risks, the public release of information under the public register will occur in a measured way. In that regard, the public register is designed to protect against the potential misuse of information about offenders disclosed under the public register and potential harm to offenders and other individuals as a result, for example, arising from acts of vigilante violence.

Specifically, the bill will insert a new part 5AA into the act providing the framework for the three-tier public register. Tier 1 is the missing noncompliant offender website—a public webpage displaying facial images and particular personal details of offenders who have breached their obligations and whose whereabouts are unknown to police. Under tier 1, in addition to a photograph of the reportable offender, the information published may also include a reportable offender's name, year of birth and a unique Queensland Police Service identifier. The Police Commissioner may decide to publish additional personal details about an offender such as descriptions of visible distinctive tattoos if considered necessary, thus ensuring that the information considered necessary to keep the community informed is published.

Tier 2 is the locality search function—a local area search allowing Queensland residents to request to temporarily view facial images of particular offenders residing in their locality. Under tier 2, upon request, photographs will be available for inspection by the person in a secure way designed to be accessible only by the person who made the request. Tier 2 is limited to reportable offenders who are repeat reportable offenders, lifelong reportable offenders and reportable offenders who are subject to a supervision order made under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003. The bill also ensures that, where people identify or receive information that a reportable offender demonstrates a serious risk to the lives or sexual safety of a child or children generally, the Police Commissioner is empowered to include their photograph in a tier 2 request made by a person within their locality.

Tier 3 is the parent/guardian disclosure scheme—a scheme enabling parents, guardians or people with ongoing parental responsibility to apply for confirmation about whether a particular person who has or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. The bill defines 'unsupervised contact' and includes physical contact and contact that occurs by electronic communication with a child without the presence of another adult.

Queensland's public register has distinct features that strengthen its framework compared to other states in that there is a legislated process by which a person can apply under tier 2. As well, there is a broader scope of reportable offenders captured for tier 2 in the bill that captures all offenders in schedule 1 of the act. Also, the publication of information of offenders who are considered to pose a serious risk and do not otherwise meet the tier 2 criteria is a discretion held by the Police Commissioner. Importantly, tier 3 information is not restricted to a parent or guardian of a child in the act. The access extends to any person with parental responsibility, ensuring a broader range of primary caregivers can apply for information.

From a safeguard perspective, the bill provides the Police Commissioner with discretionary powers to determine whether to publish, provide or remove information about reportable offenders who are subject to tier 1 and 2 of the public register, enabling a flexible approach for individual cases. Further safeguards in this bill include three new offences prohibiting misuse of information accessed or obtained from the public register. Each of those offences carries a significant penalty. Indeed, it will be an offence punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment for a person who, by a public act, engages in conduct by which the person intends to intimidate or harass another person they believe or suspect is an identified offender or incites other persons to intimidate or harass another person. There are other penalties of up to three years imprisonment as well. The bill legislates a five-year statutory review of the public register to be carried out by an independent and appropriately qualified person.

In conclusion, the public register empowers families to make informed decisions about who their children interact with, allowing them to take proactive steps to protect their children. I commend Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their strength, for their determination and for their persistence. I commend this bill to the House in the knowledge that it has come at an unimaginable cost to Bruce and Denise and their loved ones. I commend the bill—the Daniel’s Law bill—to the memory of a young boy whose passing has changed the way we think and the way we act against offenders of such heinous crimes.