




Speech By
Nigel Hutton

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2025

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

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (8.11 pm): 'There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it protects its children.' Tonight our parliament is debating the right to protect our children, to protect our children from those who have and those who would do them harm. The Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill delivers on the Crisafulli government's commitment to strengthen Queensland's child protection framework—to put the rights of children, parents and families ahead of the rights of sexual predators—and, ultimately, to honour the tireless advocacy of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Born from unimaginable pain, hurt and, ultimately, the loss of Daniel, the Daniel Morcombe Foundation has raised awareness, has fostered the power of education in our schools and has demanded action to keep Queensland children safe.

Queensland is joining Western Australia and South Australia and shortly will be joined by Tasmania in implementing a version of Daniel's Law. This bill prioritises the safety of Queensland children. It ensures that parents and caregivers gain access to information that helps them make informed decisions around who interacts with their children. It also empowers communities with knowledge—the most powerful tool that any of us can have in preventing harm.

For two decades the Queensland Police Service has administered a non-public child protection register under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. That register, as has been stated by previous speakers, has been an essential tool for police in monitoring offenders and preventing reoffending. However, that information—that critical information which could mean the difference between safety and harm for our Queensland children—has not been accessible to our community. Parents should not have to rely on luck or circumstance to be informed. They deserve transparency and they deserve a practical means of providing extra protection for their families.

This bill builds on the foundation by establishing a new three-tier public register—the first of its kind in Queensland. Tier 1 will identify missing or noncompliant offenders whose whereabouts are unknown, displaying their image and limited personal details to assist the public and police in locating them. Tier 2 will enable Queenslanders to conduct a secure locality search to see whether repeat or high-risk offenders live in their community, in their neighbourhood. This empowers families to stay vigilant in their own neighbourhood. Tier 3 allows parents, guardians and those with parental responsibility to seek confirmation—a yes or a no—about whether an individual who has, or will have, unsupervised contact with their children is a registered offender. Together, these tiers provide a measured, practical and protective framework—one that prioritises the safety of our children and puts our community safety first.

Tonight we have heard from other speakers about the need to strike a careful balance between protecting our children and safeguarding against the misuse of information. This bill introduces strict offences for anyone who intimidates, harasses or incites harm against someone they believe to be an offender. We all believe that vigilantism has no place in Queensland.

This bill also protects sensitive information—identifying details that can be accessed from the public register and details that cannot be shared or published without authorisation. To ensure accountability—something that every member of this House desires—the bill legislates an independent five-year review of the register to be tabled in this House, ensuring that Daniel’s Law continues to protect our children effectively and responsibly.

Queensland’s model draws on proven frameworks but goes further in several ways. It provides a legislated, transparent process for community access. It captures a broader range of offences than other legislation, including non-contact crimes like child exploitation material, and it extends the eligibility to anyone with parental responsibility, recognising the many forms of caregiving that are experienced in Queensland homes and amongst Queensland families.

Importantly, there are no fees to access this register. The right to protect our children, the right to protect our families, should never depend on the ability to pay. The Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register will strengthen confidence in our justice system. It will make information more accessible for our community. It will give families the power to act early. Above all, it will help them prevent harm before it happens. Every parent knows that the safety of their child is their greatest responsibility. It is also our greatest fear when that safety is threatened. This bill gives Queensland parents, Queensland guardians and Queensland families a vital new tool to help keep their children safe.

Many speakers tonight have spoken of the past. We know collectively that we cannot change the past, but what we can do together is shape a safer future for our communities, a safer future where every child in Queensland can grow up safer, more secure and better protected because of the choice we make here tonight. I commend this bill to the House, and I commend the Crisafulli government for bringing these positive reforms into the parliament so that we may protect our youngest Queenslanders even more.