




Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**

**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2025

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

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.22 pm): I rise to speak on Daniel's Law, one of the most important pieces of legislation we have seen come through this House in our first 12 months in office. I would like to congratulate the police minister for bringing this legislation into the House—I am sure with the support of the Attorney-General in giving him enforceable legislation on all of these matters. It is a very positive and refreshing approach to a very difficult subject. I cannot comprehend how these child sex offenders are born and raised, if you like. I am told that there are many psychological issues involved in these matters. This will be a step—probably a small step, but a positive step—in making people aware of the problems that may exist in their particular communities.

I remember quite clearly the abduction of young Daniel and the issues that went on and on for ages. In fact, former assistant commissioner Brian Wilkins came to see me a number of years ago just before he retired and advised me that he was part of the brains trust that put together the group that put in place the plan to catch the perpetrator—which they eventually did. They eventually locked him away, and that is where the man should be. I do not believe that the mindset of those sorts of people ever changes, and he is in the place that he should be.

It was a wonderful effort by the police in bringing that perpetrator to justice, but this bill here today will assist the communities involved with housing particular types of people who have this crazy bent that we do not understand and that I do not believe they will ever lose. This system will assist them in finding out the threats within their communities. I thank the minister particularly for making it a priority as part of our total commitment to law and order and the protection of communities throughout Queensland. It was the focus of the election 12 months ago. This is another big part of that.

I hear some comments in relation to bipartisan support for this bill. I do appreciate the fact that the opposition will be supporting this bill. It is a very important bill and it should have bipartisan support, as it could have had in the 57th Parliament when these matters were raised previously by the opposition. I get the fact that we are all on one team for Daniel's Law now, but this could have happened quite a bit earlier had other people involved in government legislation then been more supportive.

To Bruce and Denise Morcombe: I cannot ever express to you my sorrow for what you have felt over these 20 years. I am now a grandfather and I could not look at my little grandkids and think of a horrible, heinous crime happening to them. For the Morcombes to suffer that pain for all those years and to keep working so hard in the community to see Daniel's Law hopefully become law today is an absolute testament to their wonderful stoic natures and their determination to protect Daniel's memory. He is not here with us these days, but he lives on in our memory. This law will enshrine his memory forever in the Queensland parliament and in the legislative processes of Queensland.

To them I say: keep up the great work that you do. There is a celebration day tomorrow obviously, but this work needs to keep going for our children because that is the important part, learning about stranger danger and even close relatives and others who may be involved in inappropriate behaviour

with their crazy mindsets. I still, as I said, do not understand how anyone could be involved in that sort of behaviour, but it is out there. It will not stop. There will be generations to come who will have to deal with these matters. This bill is shining a light, if you like, on difficult people within our communities. It is a wonderful step forward. I congratulate all who are involved with it. I thank the opposition for their support for the bill. It will be a momentous day when this bill is passed. I cannot thank everybody enough, particularly the Morcombes, for their contribution.