



Speech By **Robbie Katter**

MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (4.27 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill. Much of what needs to be said has been said already. The baseline for this place, and something we can all agree on, is community safety and keeping our children safe. That is one of the primary concerns we should have. A lot of what we do in this place contributes towards that. Here is a gap that has been narrowed. I commend the government for taking the initiative to bring this legislation forward and the Morcombes for their advocacy.

On a personal level, applying my own personal experience, I have young girls now. That gives you a more acute awareness of the risks and dangers that are there and the fear and anxiety that goes along with that. You can only imagine the horrific feelings of families who suffer from this. I would also add, on personal reflection, some observations I have made of people who have had this experience. They are irreparably damaged. They never really come back. It has stolen something from their life. It is something so horrible, and sometimes I think we easily forget the cost that is borne by those people. They are still living, but part of their personality is ripped from them when they are young and these people take advantage of them. It goes without saying that we all want to protect our kids from these people. Having better visibility on that is a good thing.

I just observe the fact that the tier 2 locality searches are what I would be more interested in using myself. I do express some concern because, as I think was mentioned earlier, there is still a large proportion of offenders who are not captured in tier 2, so the system can give a false sense of security—like the blue cards. In saying that, no policy is perfect and, as I advocate with the blue cards, there are risks with everything.

It is not fair to say this will fix everything and this exposes everyone and provides that sort of picture of the legislation as it stands. There are still gaps and I do not have a better idea of how to fix that. I am not advocating there is a better policy to pursue, but it is important to acknowledge that gap exists and it is not doing everything we need it to do. I certainly commend the government on having the initiative to bring this forward. It is good to see what would appear to be unified support in the House for something like this. It is good to see local grassroots advocacy reach legislative instruments like this, which will do some good to protect our children in the future.