



Speech By **Sean Dillon**

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2025

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

Second Reading

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (8.22 pm): I rise tonight to also share my contribution to Daniel's Law, with the words of the Minister for Youth ringing loud in our ears. I am not a police officer. I have never served as a police officer, unlike others who have dedicated a large portion of their lives to that admirable trait of keeping Queenslanders safe.

I have been fortunate, as a parent and as a family member, to not have been subjected to the horrific situation of having lost somebody through heinous criminal activity. I am not an expert like those in this place who have served as police officers or like those families who have lost the most precious gift of all—loved ones, one of their children. They are the experts in my mind. They are whom I listen to when forming my opinion about matters like this or legislation generally.

I note the hardworking member for Nicklin's comments in the foreword to the committee report where he said that the inquiry into Daniel's Law 'touched deeply on issues of community safety, public trust, and the protection of children'. As lawmakers, we come into this place hoping that these matters never have to be debated and that we never have to unpack and hear the horrific stories that the Morcombe family and so many others have been forced to endure. We wish for that nirvana, that utopia, that perfect world where criminal acts are not committed against our children or our neighbour's children, but they are.

When I come in here and hear former serving police officers such as the Minister for Police, the committee chair and the members for Mundingburra and Lockyer, and so many others in this place give voice to this as being a necessary step, a necessary activity, to safeguard future generations of children, I couple that with the words of Bruce and Denise Morcombe, who were quoted in the committee report as saying—

... the three-tiered approach outlined in the Bill before the Queensland Parliament is measured in its approach and provides the tools necessary for parents and carers to improve the safety of children in their care. It assists the community to ultimately feel safer, and we believe it significantly acts as a deterrent against future offending.

Ministers and other members in this place have technically outlined with such clarity the tiered approach and the technical aspects of this legislation in their speeches. If I overlay that with the statements from the leaders in family advocacy in this state—irrespective of the issue, irrespective of the crime, irrespective of what matter may bring them to lobby this parliament—notwithstanding the party I represented when elected to this place I would have no choice but to voice my support for and vote in favour of this bill.

I am not only a father; I come from a small country town where almost everybody is known, and some of those people are criminals. Unfortunately, for our kids to receive an education and further their career, they are forced to attend big cities. They are forced to go to boarding schools or reside in

residential care. As parents with a country background, we are very loathe to let them go, because we do not know what is around the corner. The boarding schools that struggle meaningfully to look after our children will be aided by the provisions within this legislation. We as parents who have to let go will be aided by this legislation.

We are unashamedly putting the rights of victims first. We do not want them to be victims. We want to ensure people, especially the most vulnerable in our communities, are protected from being preyed upon by people who are refusing to report and are lost to the system and may appear anywhere or by people who may come in contact with our children through either structured or unstructured means around sport and recreation.

It fits within the Crisafulli government's new approach to crime in the state of Queensland. Across the board of this new approach there has been a lot of hard work and shoulders to the wheel. People like the police minister, who has had carriage of this bill; the Attorney-General; the Minister for Youth, who has been a solid contributor; and the Minister for Child Safety have been collaborating to ensure we recalibrate the focus towards preventing victims of crime and protecting them from future repeat offenders.

I said at the outset that many others in their contribution to this debate so far have outlined the technical elements of the bill. To me, the strongest element is that which has been outlined by those people who are advocating for change—the real experts, the people who wished they were never an expert, the people who wished they never had the reason or the need to do this. I have not had the honour of meeting the Morcombe family as many others have, but I have read their story and heard it repeated many times in this debate. The honour is all ours, because there is no honour in having to farewell a son who was—and should never have been—in the presence of an individual who committed the most heinous of crimes.

The work that they have done to tirelessly lead a considered, community-led advocacy approach to this is something that they would give all back. There are no greater advocates and no greater communicators for our children than them—and we see not only across Queensland but across Australia the education piece that they continue to espouse—but we all wish that it had not happened. In their words, the true experts in this field, they believe this legislation is a 'measured approach' and a 'deterrent against future acts'. For former serving police officers to have stood in this place to lend their unqualified support to this legislation, their contributions could not be more strongly underlined.

I thank once again the Minister for Police and the Attorney-General for the terrific work they have done in bringing this legislation before the House. I also thank the committee, and all members of the committee, led by the member for Nicklin. Having been exposed to discussions around child safety and crimes perpetrated by child sex offenders is not easy. For them to have undertaken that inquiry, which touches deeply into corners of our community that we wish were never required to be exposed, I thank them very much for that work. On behalf of the people of Gregory, I stand and give my strong commitment to support this bill.