



Speech By  
**Stephen Bennett**


**MEMBER FOR BURNETT**

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

**Second Reading**

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (5.11 pm): I rise, as my colleagues and many in this House have, to speak in support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. This bill is about one thing above all else—that is, keeping our children safe. It is about ensuring parents, carers and communities have access to the information they need to protect the most vulnerable members of our society.

This bill delivers on the government's election commitment to further strengthen sex offender laws with the establishment of the new three-tier Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register to protect Queensland children and put the rights of parents and families ahead of sexual predators. We on this side of the House recognise the deep and lasting impact that sexual crimes have on victim-survivors and their families.

I acknowledge the Queensland Police Service. I think it is important to highlight, as the member for Buderim did in his contribution, those heroes who are out there day in and day out providing this service. Sometimes that has been missed in this debate. I think it is timely to highlight that. I thank the Queensland Police Service for the briefing yesterday and the minister's office for setting that up. That provided a great insight. To see the passion of the officers in that room, the work that they do and their confidence in this legislation was very reassuring.

The police are committed to protecting the lives and sexual safety of children and are supported by the toughest laws in the nation to target child sex offenders. We all remember the heartbreaking story of Daniel Morcombe—a young boy whose life was taken in the most horrific circumstances. Daniel's parents, Bruce and Denise Morcombe, have showed extraordinary courage in turning their personal tragedy into a national campaign for child safety. Their advocacy has already saved lives through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. This bill continues that legacy by putting the safety of children front and centre of public policy. We are restoring trust and transparency through these reforms.

For too long parents have been left in the dark about who is living in their communities. This bill introduces the public child sex offender register. It is designed with careful safeguards and a clear purpose: to provide families with the right to know without compromising legitimate law enforcement processes. Under Daniel's Law, serious and repeat child sex offenders will no longer be able to hide with anonymity, and the community deserves transparency. We cannot protect what we cannot see. Members of the community cannot access information if it is stored on a non-public register. This reform ensures that parents can make informed decisions about who their children interact with and where they feel safe. It is not about vengeance; it is about prevention and protection.

As we know, there are three tiers. Under all tiers, it is up to the Police Commissioner to decide whether to publish or disclose information. This is because there could be circumstances, other than exclusions, where it is appropriate to do so. To determine an offender's eligibility to have their details

published or released under tier 1 or 2, the Police Commissioner may take into account matters considered relevant. That could include: potential impacts on victims where known, including the likelihood of identification and trauma; the risk of interference with an offender's compliance with orders and obligations and management; whether publication is in the best public interest in line with the intention of the disclosure system. In all circumstances, the Police Commissioner will decide whether or not to release information to a person via tiers 2 and 3.

This is about putting community safety first. We know that knowledge is power. Community awareness and vigilance are among the most effective tools in preventing future harm. The bill ensures that this information is handled responsibly, with penalties for misuse and oversight to prevent vigilantism. It is about balance: protecting the rights of individuals and putting the rights and safety of children first. Every child deserves to grow up free of fear and harm. Every parent deserves the reassurance that the government is doing everything it can to safeguard their family. This legislation delivers on that fundamental promise. This bill is supporting police and families.

This bill also assists police in allowing the public to provide valuable intelligence and report suspicious behaviour more effectively. It enhances the partnership between community and law enforcement—a partnership that is built on trust and transparency. It also complements our ongoing investment in education programs, victim support and early intervention. Together these measures form a comprehensive approach to community safety—one that prioritises protection, prevention and rehabilitation where appropriate.

In conclusion, I highlight that the Community Protection and Public Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill is not a political issue; it is a moral one. It is about standing for families, standing with survivors and standing for a safer Queensland. By supporting this bill, we honour Daniel's memory and reaffirm our collective commitment to the safety of every child in our state. Let this parliament send a clear message that we will not tolerate secrecy or silence when it comes to the protection of our children. I commend the bill to the House.