




Speech By
Hon. Steve Minnikin
MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (7.30 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. Last Friday I was at Camp Hill State Infants and Primary School—Camp Hill SIPS—where I was presenting an award. I was greeted by a sea of red as the assembled grade 4 class were marking Day for Daniel a week early. As always, it was a powerful sight as we continue to recognise one of the positive responses that emerged from tragedy.

Child safety is dear to my heart. I think back to instances in my electorate when children have been left behind during school pick-up or drop-off, and the work we did as a community to address that and to keep our children safe. Driven by Bruce and Denise Morcombe and supported by the community, Day for Daniel delivers an important message for young people across Queensland. Just like the sea of red we will see later this week, the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register, or Daniel's Law, is a step forward, driven by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and the tragedy that beset the state in December 2003. To Bruce and Denise, I offer my admiration. I am proud to be a member of a government that recognises the advocacy of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, which has championed for greater public access to information about child sex offenders in the community.

Our children deserve to be safe and parents deserve access to information to protect them. The bill will be known as Daniel's Law and the public register is the first of its kind in Queensland. It is broadly modelled on the limited public notification scheme that has operated in Western Australia since 2012 and follows the passage of similar laws in South Australia in 2024. However, Queensland's public register has distinct features that strengthen its overall framework compared to those other jurisdictions.

This bill establishes a new three-tier Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register to protect Queensland's most valuable assets—our children. It will make information more accessible to the community and allow parents and guardians to access information in order to make informed decisions about who has or will have contact with their child. It strikes an appropriate balance for community safety as well as the protection of children. While recognising that any risk to the lives or sexual safety of children is unacceptable and that everything must be done to safeguard children against those risks, the public release of information under the public register will occur in a very measured way. We believe that parents and guardians deserve access to information to keep children safe from harm, and this information will allow parents and guardians to remain vigilant in their local communities. The public register will be an additional tool to make informed decisions and take action at an individual level to keep children safe.

The public register is designed to protect against the potential misuse of information about offenders disclosed under the public register and potential harm to offenders and other individuals as a result, for example, arising from acts of vigilante violence. As previously mentioned by other speakers, there are three tiers to the public register. Tier 1 is the missing noncompliant offender website, a public

webpage displaying facial images and particular personal details of offenders who have breached their obligations and whose whereabouts are unknown to police. Published details may include a reportable offender's name, year of birth and unique Queensland Police Service identifier. Furthermore, under tier 1 the Police Commissioner may decide to publish additional personal details about an offender such as descriptions of visible distinctive tattoos, if considered necessary. This approach ensures that only information considered necessary to keep the community informed is indeed published.

Tier 2 is the locality search function, a local area search allowing Queensland residents to request to temporarily view facial images of particular offenders residing in their locality. Upon request, photographs will be available for inspection by the person in a very secure way and will be designated to be accessible only by the person who made the request. Tier 2 is also limited to reportable offenders who are repeat reportable offenders, lifelong reportable offenders and reportable offenders who are subject to a supervision order made under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003. The bill also ensures that, where police identify or receive information that a reportable offender demonstrates a serious risk to the lives or sexual safety of a child or children generally, the Police Commissioner is empowered to include their photograph in a tier 2 request made by a person within their locality.

Finally, tier 3 is the parent and guardian disclosure scheme, a scheme enabling parents or people with ongoing parental responsibility to apply for information about whether a particular person who has or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. The bill defines 'unsupervised contact' and includes physical contact and contact that occurs by electronic communication with a child without the presence of another adult. This is all designed to improve public confidence in the justice system by promoting transparency and accountability by making information more accessible, thereby demonstrating a commitment to restoring safety in communities and keeping children safe from sexual harm. We are empowering families to make informed decisions about whom their children interact with, allowing them to take proactive steps to protect their children.

I congratulate the Minister for Police, his department and other supporting ministers and departments for their work on this landmark legislation. As I said earlier, I am proud to be a member of the Crisafulli government and I am proud of the steps we are taking to protect Queensland children and put the rights of parents and families ahead of the rights of sexual predators.

In concluding, this bill enshrines the indomitable human spirit of love and courage. When our time in this place ends, we will look back on some bills and know in our heart of hearts that they were indeed significant landmark pieces of legislation through which all of us in this chamber strived to do the best for our communities—and I can think of no greater asset than our children—and tried to make a difference overall for society and for our kids. This is indeed such a landmark bill.