




Speech By
Terry James

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2025

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

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (4.10 pm): I rise today in support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. This bill honours Daniel Morcombe and delivers on the Crisafulli government's commitment to put the safety of Queensland children and families first. For the first time in Queensland, this bill—named Daniel's Law—establishes a three-tier public register of child sex offenders. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation has tirelessly advocated for greater transparency, and this bill responds directly to that by giving families access to vital information that has been previously withheld by police. Currently, the Queensland Police Service maintains a non-public register of reportable offenders, but families have no way of proactively protecting their children. The bill changes this by creating a public register that empowers parents and carers to make informed decisions before harm occurs.

The register is structured in three tiers. Tier 1 is the public website that lists missing noncompliant offenders with facial images and key personal details. Tier 2 is a secure locality search which allows residents to see images of certain offenders living nearby, covering repeat and lifelong offenders and those under supervision orders. Tier 3 is a disclosure scheme that enables parents, guardians and carers to confirm if a person with unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. They will receive a clear yes-or-no reply. Queensland's register is more comprehensive than those in Western Australia and South Australia, covering a broader range of offences and empowering more caregivers. Importantly, access is free for all families.

Safeguards are built in. Some offenders, such as those who committed offences as children or who are part of witness protection, are excluded. The Police Commissioner is given discretion over what information is released, considering the impact on victims and ongoing investigations. To prevent misuse, the bill introduces strong penalties for intimidation, harassment and unauthorised sharing of register information, with up to 10 years imprisonment for the most serious offences. The bill also requires a five-year independent review to ensure the register remains effective and accountable.

At its heart, Daniel's Law is about empowering families. By making information about child sex offenders more accessible, the public register enables parents, guardians and carers to make informed decisions about whom their children interact with. It allows them to take proactive steps to protect their children from harm. The register also serves to improve public confidence in our justice system—promoting transparency, accountability and a firm commitment to restoring safety in our communities—by allowing community members to be more vigilant in their local areas.

The establishment of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register is a landmark moment for Queensland. It reflects our collective determination to keep children safe and our willingness to learn from best practice around the country. It honours Daniel Morcombe and his family, whose courage and advocacy have paved the way for this vital reform. I commend the bill to the House.