



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: 562126/1; 2621995

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 6 August 2014 regarding Petition 2232-14, which was tabled in Parliament on 5 August 2014 and advocates for the introduction of a public register of sex offenders.

The Queensland Government has been very clear in its resolve to be tough on crime. One of this Government's key commitments is to make Queensland the safest place in Australia to raise a child and a number of reforms have been implemented to target sex offenders, in particular those who would prey on our children and other vulnerable people.

The 'Two Strike' legislation introduced by this Government provides tough new laws to ensure certain repeat child sex offenders must serve a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment, with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years. We have significantly increased the maximum penalties for certain child sex offences, for example, the child exploitation material offences and we have created a new offence of 'grooming' a child to target offenders who engage in grooming conduct with the intention of making it easier for them to procure a child to engage in sexual activity.

I do note your support for a national public sex offender register. While the Government has no current plans to introduce a public sex offender register we are watching developments in other Australian jurisdictions, such as Western Australia, with interest and will consider all options to protect the community.

Currently in Queensland, the *Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004* (CPORA) requires people who commit serious offences against children to regularly report details of their whereabouts to police. These offenders must provide police with details as to where they reside and work, their vehicle registration, passport details and even personal distinguishing marks. Reportable offenders must also report to police any association with clubs or organisations that have child participation in its activities, and details of any carriage service or internet service connection, including usernames. Under CPORA, a reportable offender is required to report to police as outlined for a period up to life.

Additionally, reportable offenders under CPORA form part of Queensland's data component of the National Child Offender System (formerly the 'Australian National Child Offender Register').

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On 12 June 2014 the *Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014* (the Amendment Act) received assent. The Amendment Act includes the following notable amendments to CPORA (which will commence by proclamation in the near future):

- an increase in the number of times sex offenders have to report to the Police Commissioner from once each year to every three months;
- additional periodic reporting at the discretion of the Police Commissioner;
- an expansion of the personal details that an offender must report to include information about any non-incidental contact with a child within 24 hours and any participation in social networking sites; and
- providing police power to enter premises for the purposes of making inquiries to verify information that must be provided under CPORA.

Further, the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* (DPSOA) allows for the preventative detention of sex offenders who, in the opinion of the court, pose a serious danger to the community if released at the end of their sentence. The court can order that such prisoners be detained indefinitely or released conditionally and subject to strict supervision.

Sex offenders in the community subject to a supervision order under the DPSOA are required to report to, and receive visits from, a corrective services officer and must notify the officer of every change of name, place of residence or employment, before the change happens.

Supervised sex offenders are fitted with monitoring bracelets which allows for their constant monitoring by Queensland Corrective Services, 24 hours a day, and seven days a week.

On 5 August 2014, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill 2014 was passed by Parliament and includes measures to further strengthen the DPSOA regime by creating a new offence that will see sex offenders who breach their supervision orders by removing or tampering with their monitoring device serve a mandatory minimum term of at least 12 months in prison and up to a maximum term of five years imprisonment.

The Queensland Government is determined to ensure that the DPSOA is providing maximum protection to the community and that is why the DPSOA and related sex offender community protection laws are currently under review.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



JARROD BLEIJIE MP

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice