




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2016

**CHILD PROTECTION (MANDATORY REPORTING—MASON'S LAW)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (9.40 pm): Firstly, I would like to thank all those who were involved: the committee, the member for Aspley for putting this bill together and the member for Hinchinbrook for his advocacy for this very important piece of legislation that the majority of the House seems to be very positive about. It is certainly pleasing to see that there is bipartisan agreement on this very emotive issue. It was only recently that the member for Mudgeeraba was in Beenleigh just outside my electorate for White Balloon Day with Hetty Johnston. It was a delight to have her there in the northern area of my electorate. There are many young families in my electorate. There are childcare centres galore dotted throughout the electorate. This piece of legislation will go a long way to helping childcare centres to protect those most vulnerable in our society: our little children.

I thank the grandparents, John and Sue, for their tireless passion and courage in never giving up on this cause for their little grandchild, Mason. At 16 months he was certainly taken away far too soon. I have young children. My parents, their grandparents, love to spend time with their grandkids. I cannot fathom the loss that John and Sue have had inflicted on them. I cannot comprehend the pain that they have been through. My wish is that that pain is never put onto another living soul.

Other members have been through the detail of the bill itself so I do not feel it is warranted that I go through it as well. I thank all those who participated in getting this bill here tonight. From 1 July 2017 little kids will have more protection. Queensland will be in line with other jurisdictions—apart from Western Australia—which is a good thing. To keep it short, because in all honesty I just want to see this bill passed, any law we can put through that potentially saves a child's life is a good day for this chamber. Once this bill passes we can go home and tell our children or our grandchildren that we did something really good here today.