

~~I am extremely pleased to see that Multicap was able to get in and make the most of the property. People in the community are extremely pleased to see the centre put to good use by a quality organisation. Having a local respite centre makes life much easier for the clients and their families. It gives them the chance to build their lives around others in a similar situation. Parents of children at the Mount Ommaney Special School are particularly delighted with this facility and look forward to the services that this centre will provide. In fact, I recall parent groups lobbying for these services in the western suburbs over many years.~~

~~The opening of the new facility would not have been possible without the dedicated work of Multicap staff. I would like to particularly acknowledge the commitment, dedication and professionalism of Multicap CEO Jo Jessop and her team. Their persistent work has provided many individuals with a disability and their families access to services under this new delivery model.~~

CHILD PROTECTION (MORE STRINGENT OFFENDER REPORTING) AMENDMENT BILL

First Reading

Mr JOHNSON (Gregory—LNP) (11.34 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 for particular purposes. I present the explanatory notes, and I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Tabled paper: Child Protection (More Stringent Offender Reporting) Amendment Bill.

Tabled paper: Child Protection (More Stringent Offender Reporting) Amendment Bill, explanatory notes.

Second Reading

Mr JOHNSON (Gregory—LNP) (11.34 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Today I introduce a bill into parliament that seeks to further strengthen reporting requirements for offenders who are listed on the sex offender register and to give the police the power to name missing sex offenders on the register so that they can be located. The protection of vulnerable members of our community in Queensland, especially children, should be a priority. It is clear from what is happening in Queensland that the current reporting requirements do not do enough to ensure the safety of Queenslanders. This proof is in these simple facts.

The 2009-10 estimates hearings revealed that eight sex offenders were missing from the sex offender register and that at least one offender had been missing for more than nine months. The question has to be asked: how can the reporting requirements be working when a lost sex offender cannot be located for more than nine months? Further evidence has been revealed that, under the current reporting system, almost every week for the past two years a sex offender known to the system has committed further sexual offences.

Ninety-nine dangerous sex offenders on the child protection offender reporting register have committed further sex crimes since being released back into the community. That is 99 innocent victims whose lives have been permanently scarred by a system that does not work. I seek leave to have the remainder of my second reading speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Rather than talking tough on crime, the LNP believes that the system should actually be tough on the criminals who have committed these horrendous offences. A reporting program that actually works would not allow one in three sex offenders to breach the register, as they do now under the current system.

The current Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act requires offenders to report their details every twelve months to police. It is clear that this is too long. This bill will require these offenders to report their details every three months—making Queensland laws the toughest in the country.

Furthermore, this Bill will make it an offence when an offender fails to report in more than three months after their required time. This significant time delay should and will be considered more serious and, as such, a new penalty will be applied to the offender.

Under the current legislation, police who alert the public of the details of sex offenders missing from the register are guilty of committing an offence. The insertion of a new section 70A into the act will restore common sense. Police should be allowed to alert the public if those on the register cannot be located, and this Bill will allow them to do so.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Roberts, adjourned.