

# TRANSCRIPT

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

### **Inquiry into Management of Child Sex Offender Information**

Melbourne—Thursday, 13 May 2021

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Dr Samantha Ratnam

Ms Harriet Shing

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**WITNESS**

Mr Bruce Morcombe, OAM, Founder, Daniel Morcombe Foundation (*via videoconference*).

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** I would like to read out information on the privileges for this hearing for you, Bruce. All evidence taken at this hearing is protected by parliamentary privilege as provided by the *Constitution Act 1975*, and further subject to the provisions of the Legislative Council standing orders. Therefore the information you provide during the hearing is protected by law. You are protected against any action for what you say during this hearing, but if you go elsewhere and repeat the same things, those comments may not be protected by this privilege. Any deliberately false evidence or misleading of the committee may be considered a contempt of Parliament.

And as you are already aware, all evidence is being recorded. At the end of the hearing, in a day or two, you will be provided with a proof version of the transcript. So I would encourage you to go through it and make sure that you are not misheard or misrepresented in any way.

Now, before we start, for the Hansard record, could you please state your name and the organisation you are appearing on behalf of today?

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Yes. I am Bruce Morcombe, and I am one of the co-founders of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** Could you please go to some of the opening remarks, and then we can open up for questions.

Before that, sorry, I would like to introduce myself. I am Tien Kieu, I am the Deputy Chair and I am chairing this hearing today. On my right is Mr Grimley, and on the screen is Mr O'Donohue. We may have another member linking into Zoom later on in the session.

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Sure.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** So please begin, Mr Morcombe.

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Okay, thank you very much. I, along with the entire Morcombe family and the board and all connections with the Daniel Morcombe Foundation together, aim to make Australia a safer place for all children by enabling them to reach their full potential, free from the damaging lifelong effects of sexual harm and abuse. The foundation helps children, educators and family to recognise the signs of harm and respond in safe trauma-informed ways. The foundation proactively supports the counselling of young victims of crime by providing healing pathways to recovery, acknowledging the need to counteract the long-lasting and multifaceted detrimental effects of child sexual abuse.

In the federal budget handed down in April 2019, the home affairs minister pledged \$7.8 million of funding directly towards the establishment of a national public sex offenders register, citing the register's creation as possessing a strong deterrent effect on child sex offending patterns. Since that announcement, I am on the public record regarding the register's proposal. This is not a silver bullet, but it is the latest step in the Australian government's fight to keep kids safe. We cannot undo what has been done, but we can focus on what we can change. With the register, the criminal comes second. What is number one is protecting our kids. It will protect our kids.

In December 2003 my 13-year-old son, Daniel Morcombe, was abducted and murdered by twice-convicted paedophile Brett Cowan. Cowan was not known to our family, but like us he lived on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. Nobody in the community knew of his extensive criminal record and, by his own admissions, his desire to rape children, particularly boys aged between eight and 10. His past offending over a 30-year period is chilling to say the least. It was brazen, it was violent, it was remorseless and it destroyed as many as 50 kids' lives. I know this for a fact as I have read his police file. I have also met his victims and many of their family members. It is my honest belief that a register would provide a new level of deterrent for people like him, as jail time clearly did not.

Since 2014 the Morcombe family have publicly supported and advocated for the development of a publicly accessible sex offenders register in Australia. Some supporters have suggested it be named 'Daniel's Law'. My

recommendation for the register is that it be freely accessible to the community, federally funded and understood more broadly not only as a strong deterrent but also as a beneficial and significant educational tool. The register can aid in the safety of children by allowing people in the privacy of their own home to be educated about the geographical whereabouts of high-risk convicted offenders. I am the first to acknowledge that any register will not identify all adults that pose a risk to children, but it is a damn good start to any conversation between a child and a parent or carer about their personal safety. The register would also greatly assist vulnerable single parents who, for example, may be looking for a new relationship online. It is a known fact that paedophiles join dating sites. They do so not to form a new adult relationship but rather to have access to the children.

To reiterate this point I offer the following: just relate to our personal story. In December 2003 Brett Cowan was married and his pregnant wife had no idea about his previous offending. He had been convicted twice and went to jail on both occasions for very violent crimes against kids. My vision for the register is that it protects and informs the community while at the same time it also acts as a deterrent for those individuals who commit crimes of a sexual nature against children. Who would be on the register? In terms of past offending, it is my belief, and also that of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, that the register should capture the worst of the worst offenders, even though many of these may well have fully served their sentence. This includes key identifying particulars of Australia's most violent paedophiles, including all repeat and recidivist offenders. The register would contain the following information: the offender's name, alias and nickname; the geographical area of the offender's principal place of residence; and the ability to statistically search an area for residing offenders. It would detail the general nature of their offending against children. It should include a current photo and identifying features, namely tattoos, unique posture, unusual features or stance, hair colour, ethnicity and gender. The register would not capture information that could assist in the identification of young victims of crime or include offenders aged under 18 years of age.

Accompanying the register would be strengthened vigilante laws to protect the physical wellbeing and safety of those listed on the register. There need to be adequate safety nets to deter and make it illegal for vigilantism. The register would include all future offenders who have been found guilty of a sexual-natured crime against a child, including those who have been prosecuted for the offence of downloading child sexual abuse material. And for the purposes of clarity, the register would include all the names of offenders who are currently incarcerated and those who have previously been incarcerated who possess extensive history of repeat offending. I propose that individuals on the register would remain for a minimum of 10 years and perhaps a maximum of 25 years. This could be adjusted based on the judge's sentencing once released from jail.

Finally, I make the adamant suggestion that the register cannot and must not identify any child victims, and therefore every effort must be made to preserve their anonymity. And that concludes my opening statement.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** Thank you, Mr Morcombe, for your presentation today and also for the good work that the Daniel Morcombe Foundation is doing.

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Thank you.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** It is a result coming out of very tragic circumstances, but thank you for the good work.

I would like to start with some questions around the effectiveness of a national registry. You have a very strong view, and also you have a very comprehensive presentation of how it should be enacted and implemented. But on the other hand, you just mentioned the privacy and the identification of young victims.

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Yes.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** But most—the majority—of the acts committed against young victims would be family members, so by identifying the family members, inadvertently the victims may be identified as well. So that is my first point.

Secondly, a lot of the people committing sex acts against particularly children may not be reported or convicted, and so a sex offenders registry, a national one, may create a false sense, according to some arguments, of safety and also security for the community. Another argument against—well, not against, but to present a different point of view: for the people who have been reported and convicted and have served their jail terms, if, once released, their names are on the sex offenders registry, one of the arguments is that they may

not have anything else to lose and so it may lead to not a commitment but a difficult situation to rehabilitate and maybe further recidivism. So what are your arguments or your views about those opposite sides?

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Yes, certainly. In terms of a false sense of security, it could be suggested that those on the register are only the criminals that interfere with our children and hence if you are not on the list you must be okay. As I said in the opening statement, that is not the argument I would put forward. I would suggest that it is a starting point. It is to generate and educate conversation within the community, and most likely that is a parent or carer with a young person that may be living in whichever suburb—Werribee or Ballarat, wherever it may be. They may be living in that area, and in the privacy of their own home they can generate statistical geographical information. That is the way I could see it as an educational tool that will aid the safety of youngsters. So it can print perhaps within a 20-kilometre radius of this person's home, so that is where they live, and presumably schools 10 kilometres away or something almost a heat map, not necessarily identifying—I will use the words 'Pine Street', but I do not wish to create any issues with someone who may live in Pine Street—7 Pine Street. I am suggesting we do not identify by the physical street address; we just identify by geographical area this is the number of serious sex offenders that live within this number of kilometres of your house. That would lead, in real time, that conversation of a youngster with the parents or carer: 'You need to be vigilant not just of this number of people but all people, because these are the convicted offenders'. And there would be an equal number of people, perhaps even in excess of the numbers that show on that heat map. So it starts the conversation: 'Did you know within this area this is the number of convicted offenders that have been charged and found guilty of crimes most likely of a sexual nature against kids?'. So it is real-time real information, and I think it is a sit-up-and-take-notice moment for the youngsters. It will not scare them, but at the same time I think it would aid that conversation instead of the youngsters thinking, 'Oh, Mum or Dad, don't be silly. That'll never happen to me. This is a lovely area'. That is what we thought. Palmwoods is a beautiful regional community town, but of course anyone can jump in a car and 30 minutes later you are 30 kilometres away.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** Or the internet.

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Yes, indeed. That is right. You can be lured elsewhere with the internet conversation, most definitely, or by receiving gifts. The lure of a meeting with somebody that you think is a 13-year-old and they are your best friend, but in fact they may well be an adult pretending to be a young person and gaining your trust and your friendship. So certainly in terms of a false sense of security, we just need to educate the public that it is not the be-all and end-all. There will be, as there are now—it is no different to now—offenders out there that pose a risk to our kids. Some, on my suggestion, will be on the register and others, as is now, will not be on the register. They are not on the register now. So nothing has changed; we have just created a register that makes parents, carers, educators and kids sit up and say, 'Wow, I didn't know that'. We need to make sure that we do educate our kids on how to keep safe by, I am suggesting, recognising potential danger, knowing how to react—so run or shut down the device—and certainly report to mum and dad, perhaps a police officer, school principal or teacher, somebody who is a helpful adult most definitely.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** Thank you.

**Mr MORCOMBE:** There were two other points there, if you could just help me out there.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** Yes, I am aware of the time because I would like other members to have the chance to ask questions.

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Yes, sure.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** There is no incentive or there is nothing left for an offender once they are publicly known, and then it is very hard for them to be rehabilitated.

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Yes. I am listening and I have heard that argument before, but at the end of the day what I am suggesting is a softening, so it is not all past offenders who would be included on the register. I am suggesting it is repeat offenders, so these are the worst of the worst. They are ones that were found guilty, perhaps went to jail and have done another crime. In my way of thinking, they have not learned from their past offending. They have not been successful in going through the required courses to moderate that behaviour, so in my view, repeat offenders should be on the register—that is past offenders—and all new offenders, no matter what strength of sexual offending, are on the register. It is a warning to future adults that wish to go down that

path: ‘Don’t go there because at the end of the day you will find yourself on a publicly accessible sex offenders register’.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** Thank you very much. Mr O’Donohue, do you have any questions?

**Mr O’DONOHUE:** Thank you, Deputy Chair. Mr Morcombe, can I thank you for your evidence today and can I echo the Deputy Chair’s comments about your involvement in public policy in this space since the tragic loss of your son. I just want to make the point that, whilst there are obviously different views about a public sex offenders register, the fact that you and the foundation have been so public in raising these issues is a good in and of itself because it is raising awareness about the risk sex offenders pose to children. Dr Kieu has put to you some of the arguments that opponents of a sex offenders register claim and make, and you have eloquently responded to those. Can I just ask: is there any research or any other material you can provide to us that demonstrates a link between a public register and a reduction in recidivist behaviour or a reduction in offending generally?

**Mr MORCOMBE:** The short answer is no, and the reason is that there is considerable data globally—so Sarah’s Law, Megan’s Law et cetera—but a lot of that is in excess of 10 years of age. The world is a different place, as we know, technologywise, and all paedophiles will have access to kids via the internet. Ten and 15 years ago it was a different story. Their methodology has changed, their nature in grooming has changed, but certainly in short I do not have any statistical information. There is no, I do not believe, credible information within Australia. But at the same time, it is not suggesting that it is a bad thing. It is not suggesting it is a good thing. I am suggesting: let us give it a go.

**Mr O’DONOHUE:** Chair, if I can just ask one follow-up question.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** Please.

**Mr O’DONOHUE:** Mr Morcombe, do you have a view—you obviously operate nationally, and you are involved in different jurisdictions with your advocacy work and everything that you and the foundation do. The Western Australia model has been cited to us as a step forward for those who want greater transparency. Can you give us some comment about the way different jurisdictions around Australia work, specifically about the Western Australia model, noting your preference for a national scheme? If we are to learn from other jurisdictions, are there are some that are doing it better than others in your observation?

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Certainly Western Australia does have a scheme that they rolled out a number of years ago, and it is a model that has been presented to me and the foundation within Queensland and Victoria and other states previously as a working model that should be looked at and looked at with likely implementation. When I have been asked if I would support the WA model I have said I would prefer it to be a public-accessible website. So it is not applying—making application—it is just that a family can go into their lounge room or their kitchen, wherever their laptop or computers are, and have that important conversation about their personal safety and download information that will be available in an instant. We are just using the technology of the day, so it is not a slower process. It is being able to identify who has access to their kids by name, but also how many live within a geographical area of nanna’s house, the school or home or whatever it may be that they wish to examine.

And I have heard the argument that it potentially will create an issue with housing prices—you know, one area has a greater percentage than others—and my argument to that is: seriously, we are not interested in housing prices, we are interested in protecting our kids. So let us get it first and foremost: a public-accessible sex offender register needs to be in real time with real information, accessed in the privacy of your own home instantly and freely accessible to anybody that wishes to download that information.

**Mr O’DONOHUE:** Thank you very much. And thank you again for being with us today. It is sincerely appreciated.

**Mr MORCOMBE:** No worries. Thanks.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** Mr Grimley.

**Mr GRIMLEY:** Thank you, Deputy Chair, and thank you very much, Bruce, for your presentation today and all the fantastic work that you do with the foundation. It is absolutely brilliant, and I really appreciate you being here.

I am just sort of paraphrasing what you were talking about in relation to the false sense of security, and I was just jotting down a few notes here, and I will get to a question shortly.

Rightly so, you said—and I believe this is correct—‘The purpose of the register would be to inform and protect, first and foremost’. And it was really good that you mentioned having that discussion as well, and that a register is not the only tool that we should be using in protecting our children. It is a tool in the toolbox, amongst many, many other things.

And in relation to the false sense of security, I often think about, if you are in a dangerous situation, any dangerous situation—I talk to my kids about this all the time—if there is a warning sign on a cliff to say, ‘Don’t walk on these loose rocks’, then you would probably take heed of that sign. If there is not a sign, you are still conscious of your surrounds; you are still looking around at the cliff and the rocks, and you are still being careful. So that false sense of security argument that you presented I do understand.

I would like to talk in terms of education programs and what role you believe they have and how we can raise public awareness and education programs and how they can play a pivotal part in preventing child sex abuse and increasing reporting rates as well. Did you want to elaborate to the committee along those lines?

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Yes, I would love to. Certainly the Daniel Morcombe Foundation has a couple of aims. One is to educate kids on how to keep safe. Within Queensland the Queensland education department have funded an education child safety package, which is called the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum. Now, that is available to all states and territories right around the country. I appreciate many states and territory stakeholders have their own system or curriculum information, and that is okay, but we are working through the ACCCE—so this is the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation, ACCCE—which is under the AFP flag. We are on a working committee there that incorporates many government and non-government organisations, not just in Queensland but a number of state and territory stakeholders that are working collaboratively to come up with a single national child safety education package, an education suite of things as simple as keywords—as I said initially, ‘recognise, react, report’. And even in Queensland I drive past the local school and they do not use that on their signage out the front. They do not necessarily use—it is not mandatory—our three keywords. So there is some confusion. We would like it state by state, particularly as the population not just of mums and dads and the family but also teachers and educators is very transient these days. So there is migration between state and territory stakeholders. We need to have a national, coordinated education policy and branding, absolutely.

Another thing the Daniel Morcombe Foundation is currently doing as a suite—as you suggested—of initiatives that will protect kids is we have an early intervention program called Changing Futures. We are one year into a three-year project to identify youngsters, typically kids under 13, so these are preteens. As I said right at the start, Cowan himself was at nine and 10 years old offending against similar-aged kids, and he did that for some 30-plus years. If he could have been identified at nine, 10, 11 years old and been counselled in a healthy direction so that he realised, ‘This is not the way to go. I need to appreciate that I cannot offend against my fellow children’, then he himself would have had a better life and some 50 youngsters would not have been offended against, and of course Daniel would still be here today. So early intervention is the key. That is one of the cornerstones of the foundation. It is one of the suites to identify young children, so perhaps preteens or even young teenagers, and assist them with counselling and therapy into a healthy direction that at the end of the day hopefully will eradicate their desire to assault other kids.

**Mr GRIMLEY:** Thank you for that. Just further to that, I understand the program has been operating in Queensland schools for some years now. Is that correct?

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Yes.

**Mr GRIMLEY:** So are you able to elaborate to the inquiry on how this has assisted children in coming forward in reporting elements of child sex abuse?

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Certainly. Our three keywords are ‘recognise, react, report’, and the key word out of those three is to report. Each year the last Friday of October is Day for Daniel. It is a national day, and last year

we had some 4800 schools and early learning centres, so preschools, register online—there is no fee—and participate in Day for Daniel. So what we ask is that they wear red—but they do not always do—and incorporate a safety lesson within the day, so that might be some of the videos or information or fact sheets that we have freely available online, or they might have their Adopt-A-Cop or local police officer or their school principal chat to the kids about issues that may be in their lives. But I can identify that we do a post-event survey of all our major events, including Day for Daniel, and of the 500 schools and early learning centres that responded to that—there were 500 in that sample—over the last couple of years some 6 or 7 per cent reported that there was a disclosure from a child as a result of Day for Daniel. So it is either on the day or immediately after—one assumes Monday or Tuesday of the following week. So when you crunch the numbers, I believe it is somewhere between 250 and 300 students that on or thereabouts on Day for Daniel disclose nationally because of the word ‘report’. We make it comfortable and the right thing to do for youngsters to come forward. They do not feel ashamed. They just say, ‘This has happened to me. It’s not my fault’. These are the messages we present to them: it is never their fault; it is always the adult’s fault. And certainly the most alarming thing is that 300 kids have come forward in a short space of time to disclose. Now, while that is alarming, it is also great because those kids are in a healthier position. They are being cared for, they are being looked after and hopefully quite a number of adults are being spoken to about what has been disclosed by those youngsters.

**Mr GRIMLEY:** And as we know, historically sexual offences are under-reported—incredibly so—so it is wonderful that your program is able to identify those kids and make them comfortable enough to report.

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Yes, certainly. We have another phrase, which is: ‘Talk early, talk often and keep talking’. We are just making it okay to have that child-safety education talk, whether it is at school or at home. It is not a once-a-year thing; it is just everyday conversation. You know, they can say, ‘Well, I was standing at the bus stop, chatting to my mate’—or on the phone or whatever—‘and this car cruised past a couple of times. You know, I was feeling a bit funny about that’. That is conversation. That is great. ‘If you see it again, take a photo of it and we’ll report it to the police’. These are important things: recognising potential danger, largely through their body clues—you know, ‘Something’s not right’—and reacting. Clear off, run, shut down the device and move away as quickly as you can. It is not always easy—you know, if they are in the change room with maybe a sporting coach or something like that, they feel vulnerable—but as soon as they can, and ideally that is within minutes, they should report to an adult or an authority, like the Kids Helpline or police, about their concerns. That is what is important: report and leave it to the adults to check that out.

**Mr GRIMLEY:** Thank you.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** Thank you. Ms Maxwell.

**Ms MAXWELL:** Thank you, Deputy Chair. Hello, Bruce, and thank you so much for being here today. You know that I am an avid supporter of your foundation, and both Mr Grimley and I have attended your Day for Daniel walks and balls. We have just got to work it out so that it is not at the end of a sitting week, Bruce, because it makes it hard for us to get there. But, look, I honestly do not know how you and Denise get up every day and have done for many years since the loss of beautiful Daniel. And you are right, with this conversation about having a national child sex offender register, the one thing that is so important here is the reason for this, which is that we must protect our children. I believe that that is the work that your foundation is doing in prioritising children over the offenders. I think this has been born too from the lack of justice within our justice system. If Brett Cowan had been incarcerated for a period of time that he should have been, he may not have ever been out after his first offending incident.

We know that for many years—and I do not know whether you have seen them or are aware of them, Bruce—there were the MAKO/Files. You could go online and you could look up the MAKO/Files. That was active for many, many years, and never once did I hear about any vigilante reports as a result of the MAKO/Files being available online. Just to ensure that that spelling is right, it is M-A-K-O, so the MAKO/Files. Now, I think that that has actually been taken down recently or in recent years, but that was an opportunity for people to go online and see if there were sex offenders living within their region.

I do want to just also say that, Bruce, it is very, very clear to all of us here today and for people watching that you are not standing here wanting any vengeance against Brett Peter Cowan and sex offenders, because you have gone out there and you have started this foundation. And the fact that you are now doing the Changing Futures program and you are wanting to identify these children who are displaying sexualised behaviours just shows how important the protection of children is to you. So I am not sure that I have got any questions other

than: were you aware of the MAKO/Files? And I just want to say thank you so much for the work that you do. I hope that you will become a national icon throughout this country, because I believe the work that you do is getting through. I believe that because of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation we are seeing children being made safer.

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Thank you very much. In answer to the couple of questions you raised, certainly the MAKO files I was aware of. I have in the past previously looked over many of those files, and I totally agree. I am not aware of any vigilante behaviour regarding any of the people on that particular site that were listed there. And I should point out that I am not sure who the creator of that site was, but obviously that information was unauthorised. A national sex offenders register would be sanctioned, would have the right information and would not place the victims of crime, possibly family members or others within their local community, at risk by being identified and going through the heartache that, you know, perhaps they are bullied or singled out in some particular way themselves so they relive that crime. So, yes, I was aware of the MAKO site. I too believe it is not available any longer, and as I just said I am not aware of any vigilante activity regarding names or movements of people within that site.

And thank you very much for your support and continued support of the foundation. I would like to make the point that it is not about me. It is definitely not about me. It is just that I have a story to tell. That is one of the gifts we possess. So, it might sound peculiar, but it is how Denise and I get up each and every day. We have a gift, and that gift is that we have a story to tell. That story is very much about the underdog and Daniel's legacy, the underdog being our family that has suffered enormously. But with the community's support we have stood tall, we keep grinding away, the foundation is prospering, and people listen to what we have to say.

As I often say—we were just at a business meeting earlier this morning in Brisbane—it is about chipping away. What I identified to the 60 or so people at the business early morning breakfast was it is not about who delivers the message, it is about the message itself. But the point is we deliver it. So Denise and I say exactly the same words as a police officer, as Mum or Dad, as a teacher or whoever it may be; it is usually in one ear and out the other, but when Denise and I say exactly the same message, the kids, the lawmakers, whoever it may be, sit up and say, 'Wow!'. That is important. Even though someone else could say exactly the same thing, it is important because we not only talk the talk, but we walk the walk. We have been there, we have done that, and we can see areas of improvement. So it is not about me personally, but it is about influencing change going forward.

Certainly I do not have any ill feeling. It might sound peculiar, but it is a fact. I bear no grudge to Brett Cowan at all. Like, we do not use his name, but truly I actually would like to have a conversation with him one day really about gaining some information about changing futures: 'What was it when you were nine and 10?'. Because I heard him at the coronial inquest some 10 years ago where he did sit in the witness box and provide sworn testimony. He was asked directly, 'Have you come from a family where sexual assault was common or known?' and his answer was no. Another question to Brett Cowan was, 'Have you been sexually assaulted yourself?' and his answer was no. We know statistically it is not unusual that a victim of sexual assault often becomes a perpetrator in their adult years. We do not know why—that is a peculiarity—but he himself was not assaulted. His family, I do not know them personally but from what I can gather, have not been to jail or convicted of any serious offence at all. He came from fairly mediocre middle Australia, so he is a peculiarity, but I think there is information to gain—whether it is through me or a professional therapist—from him or other convicted paedophiles: 'Why did you go down that path?'. I think this is the education process that needs to happen. Certainly the register will aid that—as a strong deterrent effect there is an educational benefit—but it must be within a suite of resources educating kids on how to keep safe. But, man, if we could identify and spend some resources within Australia on protecting our kids from other kids that are offending against them, that prevents that youngster from becoming an adult who preys on kids themselves and creates havoc for the rest of his life.

**Ms MAXWELL:** Thank you, Bruce. It is lovely to see you again.

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Cheers. Thank you.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** Thank you, Bruce, for appearing here today and also for the presentation. We wish you all the best and for the success of the foundation in realising and implementing education and also for the legacy of Daniel. Thank you so much.

**Mr MORCOMBE:** Thank you very much. Good luck with the inquiry.



**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** You will be provided with a transcript. Please go through it and make sure that you are not misrepresented in any way before it is made publicly available.

**Mr MORCOMBE:** I appreciate that. Thank you.

**The DEPUTY CHAIR:** Thank you.

**Witness withdrew.**