



SOUTH
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Government of
South Australia

News Release Deputy Premier John Rau

Attorney-General

Minister for Justice Reform

Minister for Planning

Minister for Housing and Urban Development

Minister for Industrial Relations

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More tough laws to regulate registered child sex offenders

Tough provisions to crackdown on registered child sex offenders will come into effect this weekend.

Today Attorney-General, John Rau said the new laws are the final phase of the State Governments move to strengthen the state Child Sex Offenders Register late last year.

“We have been sending a strong message to parents and offenders for some time now - child sex offences will not be tolerated in South Australia,” he said.

“A suite of new laws have already been introduced to tighten the regulation of registered offenders and increase police powers, and these laws that will take effect this weekend are the final part of that package.”

Under the *Child Sex Offenders Registration (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act 2013* registered child sex offenders will now be banned from changing their name, unless the Commissioner of Police provides consent.

New laws will also be introduced to allow Police to use information acquired from the Child Sex Offenders Register for other policing matters.

“Personal information included on the register, such as a photograph and address, may now be used in general police matters and investigations with the approval of the Police Commissioner,” Mr Rau said.

“The new laws will also provide the Police Commissioner greater flexibility in the registration of offenders in consensual young love cases.”

Mr Rau said the State Government is also working on the implementation of control orders for convicted child sex offenders.

“We have already taken steps towards tightening and extending reporting requirements for registered child sex offenders,” he said.

“New legislation that will allow the Magistrate Court to place a control orders on a registered child sex offender is currently before the Parliament

“These control orders will allow for specific restriction and prohibitions at the discretion of the

Magistrate. For example, a control order could prohibit an offender from attending a specific place, or a class of place, like a school.

“Children and the community have a right to be safe from predators.

“We have already undertaken extensive legal reform in this area and I will continue to monitor the changes and ensure we are doing all we can to make sure our community is safe.”

The provisions introduced from late last year include:

- mandatory bail conditions for any person charged with a child sex offence preventing them from engaging in "child-related work"
- stricter reporting requirements for registered child sex offender, this includes notifying police about employment information and empowering Police to contact employers to verify this information and advise the employer of the arrest or charge
- ban on registered child sex offenders from workings as a taxi-driver or hire-car driver
- allow for electronic monitoring of serious registered child sex offender with consent of the Police Commissioner
- the back-capture of DNA for all registered child sex offenders
- new search powers for Police against serious registered child sex offenders; and
- a requirement for registered child sex offenders who live in the same household as a child, or who spend the night in the same household as a child, to tell any parent or guardian of that child that they are a registered child sex offender and the nature of their convictions.