

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Monday 5 June 2017

PUTTING A STOP TO AUSTRALIAN CHILD SEX OFFENDERS TRAVELLING OVERSEAS.

The Federal Government is introducing new legislation to prevent registered child sex offenders with reporting obligations from travelling overseas.

In a world first the legislation will make it a criminal offence for the offenders to try and leave Australia, making it the toughest regime against child sex tourism in the world.

Federal Member for Mallee Andrew Broad has welcomed the Bill that will affect the 20,000 registered child sex offenders on the Australian National Child Offender Register.

“We are putting a stop to overseas travel for Australian child sex offenders where they could continue to engage in illegal behaviour.”

“We had almost 800 registered offenders travel overseas last year, and this year it’s already at 390 – that’s more than two per day.”

Often offenders are travelling to vulnerable countries to be out of sight and reach of Australian law enforcement and The Australian Federal Police have advised that existing laws aren’t doing enough.

With around 2,500 offenders added to the registers each year the new legislation will ensure safer travel for all.

“I am committed to protecting women and children from sexual predators both in Australia and overseas,” Mr Broad said.

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