

Friday, 19th March 2004.

## **FOR DANIEL**

### **Statewide campaign aims to protect our children**

THE Sunshine

Coast crusade to solve the disappearance of Palmwoods teenager Daniel Morcombe has become a Queensland-wide campaign to protect children against crime.

Premier Peter Beattie yesterday declared a second Red Ribbon Day would be held on Tuesday, April 20, to coincide with the next sitting day of State Parliament.

The gesture, initiated by Member for Kawana and Emergency Services Minister Chris Cummins, would be a simple but poignant show of community support for the Morcombe family's ongoing anguish.

Mr Beattie urged all members of parliament, and the wider community, to support Red Ribbon Day and "show you have not forgotten Daniel".

"It will be a way of showing solidarity with (his) family, and supporting the police who continue to assiduously investigate his disappearance," Mr Beattie said.

"(Offers of support are) an inspiring response to a family's anguish, and confirmation that our community abhors crimes against children." Wearing a red ribbon has become a potent symbol of wide-spread community anger about Daniel's abduction since the 13-year-old Siena Catholic College twin vanished more than three months ago from the Kiel Mountain Road overpass.

He was wearing a red shirt the last time he was seen.

Denise and Bruce Morcombe yesterday said they felt over-whelmed and extremely pleased that the search for the son had reached "the very top levels of government".

Mr Morcombe said the outpouring of support was a source of comfort to his family but also sent a message that crimes against children were not acceptable.

"We need to prevent this from happening to someone else's child in the future," Mr Morcombe said.

Daniel's disappearance had prompted an unprecedented response to Crime Stoppers, with detectives still sifting through more than 3000 pieces of information.

About 20,000 posters, carrying Daniel's photograph and details of his disappearance, had been supplied to schools, shopping centres, police stations, and other businesses across Australia.

National media attention also showed no sign of waning, with two metropolitan newspapers publishing articles in tomorrow's editions and ABC's Australian Story expected to air a Daniel program next month.

On the Coast, thousands of letterboxes, fences and car aerals are already decorated with red ribbons.

Mr Cummins urged anyone with information ? however small ? to come forward.

"Someone must know some-thing that can help in this investigation," Mr Cummins said.

Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000