

Child Protection Offender Register

By Adelle O'Donnell, Media and Public Affairs Branch

Offenders who have been released back into the community after being convicted of committing serious offences against children now have to report to police as part of the Child Protection Offender Register which started on January 1.

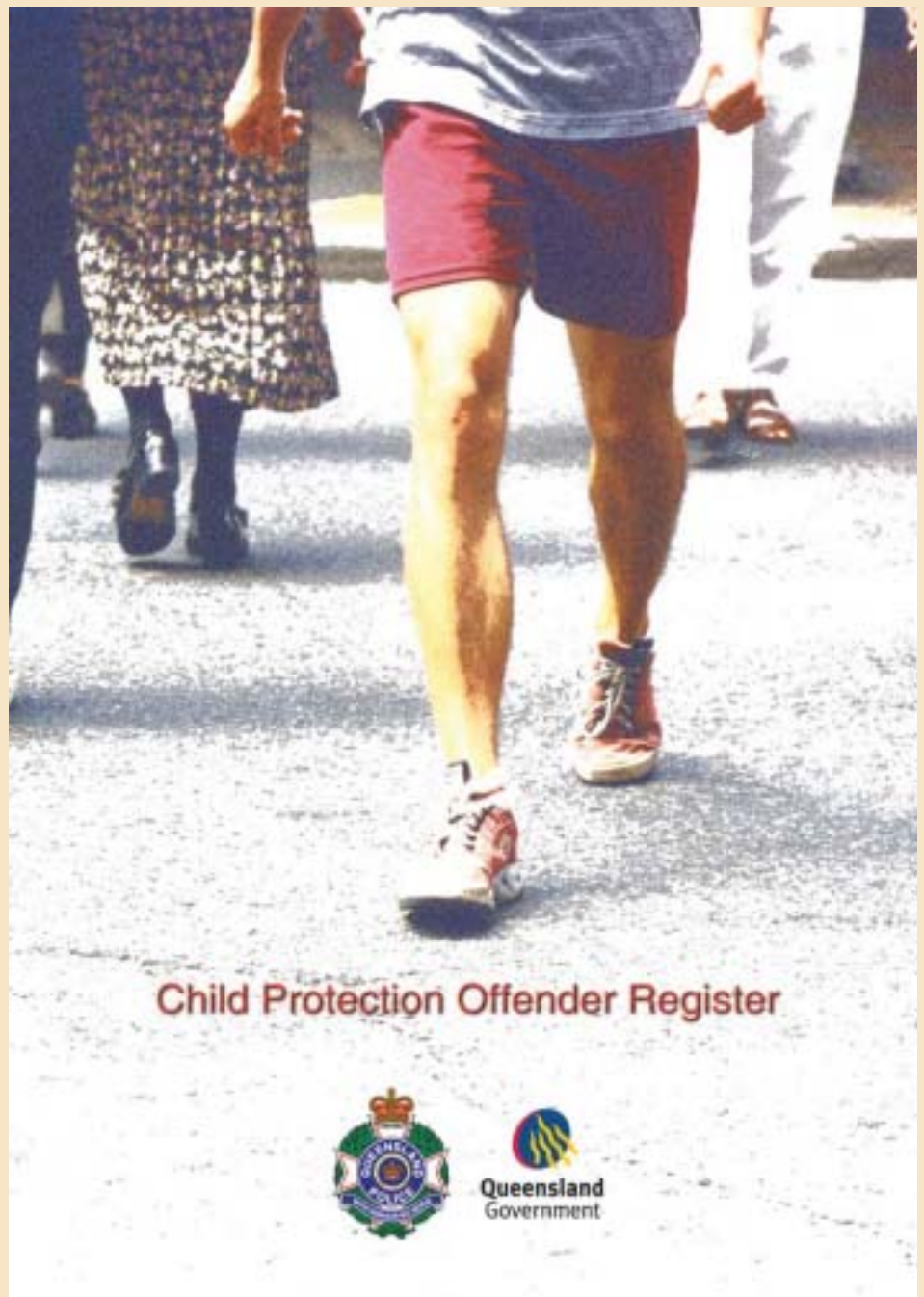
Detective Sergeant Denzil Clark from the Child Protection Offender Registry said the register aimed to keep police informed of these offenders' whereabouts.

The serious offences against children, known as reportable offences, include murder, rape, sodomy, unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent treatment and child pornography.

"The National Child Protection Offender Register recognises that in many cases there are recidivist risks posed by offenders who have committed serious offences against children," Detective Sergeant Clark said.

"This register is not punitive in nature but aims to protect the community. It allows police to monitor the reporting offender's situation, so as to reduce the likelihood they will re-offend, and to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of any future offences they may commit," he said.

People required to report to police include those who were sentenced for a reportable offence after January 1 or a person who, as a result of having been sentenced for a reportable offence before this time, was serving a term of imprisonment, was subject



to a supervision order or was subject to a reporting order under section 19 of the *Criminal Law Amendment Act 1945*.

Detective Sergeant Clark said many factors determined the length of a reporting period, including the seriousness of the offence committed and the number of reportable offences for which the person had been convicted.

"An offender has certain reporting obligations to meet, namely an initial report upon being released from custody and an annual report. Offenders must provide personal details to police and if these change, or they intend to

travel from Queensland, they must report these within certain time frames," he said.

"It is an offence for failing to comply with these reporting obligations or to knowingly provide false or misleading information to police," Detective Sergeant Clark said.

All information contained on the Child Protection Offender Register is confidential and will only be used for law enforcement purposes.

A brochure about the Child Protection Offender Register is available online at www.police.qld.gov.au.