

Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Community Support and Services Committee](#)
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to the committee,

Thank you for considering this supplementary submission.

It has come to my attention that there are also community education initiatives that should be considered to reduce harms when community members encounter dangerous situations and to improve awareness of factors that indicate danger. In particular there have been recent situations where members of the community have escalated confrontations with offenders caught in the act leading to their deaths. Although strongly advised not to engage in operational law enforcement activities for which they are not trained, it must be considered that people will chose to do so anyway.

Humans are tool using simians and the appendages of tool manipulation are the hands. Members of the community would do well to consider the purpose of handcuffs is to restrain the tool using appendages. Members of the community would do well to appreciate that police request assailants to show their empty hands to police officers and to raise them so that it is difficult to easily and quickly retrieve a concealed tool from their person. Members of the community would do well to pay close attention to the hands of persons that they attempt to confront or apprehend.

Similarly I would advise indigenous and cultural community organizations to advise members, participants and attendees of an important western cultural norm. The handshake was a roman custom with the purpose of demonstrating that the hands were empty. The prescribed toga required to be worn in certain areas of the city was designed to be cumbersome, awkward and impractical forcing citizens to display their hands. Ensuring empty hands are displayed in public is an important dominant cultural norm to observe that when not done, in the western tradition, is considered threatening body language that can lead to misunderstandings and negative reactions where this was not intended. In this regard, I advise community members to, "do as the Romans do."

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