

**Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025**

<b>Submission No:</b>	6
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Hub Community Legal
<b>Publication:</b>	
<b>Attachments:</b>	See attachment
<b>Submitter Comments:</b>	



16 April 2025

Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane QLD 4000

By email: [JICSC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:JICSC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee Secretary,

**Re: Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025**

Hub Community Legal is a generalist community legal centre based in Inala. We are a not-for-profit organisation that advocates and engages with our diverse community. We are committed to promoting a society where all people are valued and supported. We provide free legal services seeking to provide access to justice for all.

It is acknowledged that "*Jack's Law*" has the worthy aims to prevent the incidence of violent offences by attempting to reduce the number of knives and other weapons in our public places.

We are aware that "*Jack's Law*" was originally put in place on a trial basis to see if police using handheld scanners in certain high-risk places would reduce the number of knives in possession of persons in public spaces.

The process of scanning involves police using their power to detain a person for the purposes of a search. One of the basic principles of a democratic society is the freedom of movement. The proposed laws will restrict the human rights of ordinary persons.

It must be recognised that the current Bill to enable scanning in all public places (and not just '*relevant places*' such as entertainment and safe night precincts) constitutes a significant increase in police powers. The expansion of the use of scanners to *all* public spaces constitutes a major infringement of the human rights and freedoms of ordinary people going about their lives. The increase in police powers that is being proposed will be a significant infringement on the right of persons to walk freely in public spaces. Furthermore, the Bill proposes to remove almost all of the existing safeguards.

**HUB COMMUNITY LEGAL**

ABN 57 857 061 648

Phone: 07 3372 7677

79 Poinsettia Street, Inala 4077. PO Box 122 Inala Qld 4077  
[legal@hubcommunity.org.au](mailto:legal@hubcommunity.org.au) [www.hubcommunity.org.au](http://www.hubcommunity.org.au)

**EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITIES OF INALA AND SURROUNDING AREAS**

There must be a balance between the individual's human rights on one hand and the police powers on the other. A person who has not been suspected of any wrongdoing can be detained by police for the purpose of a search. It cannot be overstated that the infringement on human rights is real and will effect very ordinary persons lawfully going about their lives.

It is submitted that:

The Bill should not be considered until an independent evaluation has been done to see if the current legislation is achieving its aims and whether the existing safeguards are adequate.

All use of handheld scanners should be approved by a senior police officer whether in a '*relevant place*' or in a '*public place*' (as defined in the legislation). This is not just a matter of police efficiency. Where the human rights of individuals will be affected there is a need for a proper process of approval. Police need to be cognisant of the fact this process does interfere with the rights of the individuals being searched – most of whom do not have the possession of a knife and who are entitled to freedom of movement.

All existing safeguards should be retained or expanded.

Regular independent evaluations of the use of these police powers should be conducted. In particular any discriminatory practices or misuse of these powers needs to be identified and redressed. Our community members are frequently concerned about the police targeting specific groups of persons based on factors such as their age, gender, race and appearances. Discriminatory police practices need to be addressed, and safeguards are needed to prevent this. Discriminatory practices (or a feeling of having been unfairly targeted) by police causes mistrust between police and some groups in our community.

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the author by email to [REDACTED] or by phone on (07) 33727677.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]  
**Carolyn Juratowitch**

*Principal Lawyer*  
**Hub Community Legal**