



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Schoolies Week**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.52 am): As the school year comes to an end for more students, I once again congratulate this year's year 12 students. As the annual schoolies week celebrations have come to an end, I want to take this opportunity to thank the police officers and support agencies and organisations for their efforts.

I joined police on the Gold Coast during the first weekend of schoolies. I walked around the safe night precinct in the late evening with police officers who were out on patrol. I saw firsthand police officers taking a proactive approach, interacting and conversing with many of the young people who were out and about. This was the biggest schoolies since COVID. It was much anticipated. Police tell me that the behaviour was generally very good. What was notable was how many young people attended. Police say more than 20,000 young people attended. I am informed that is about 10,000 more than last year.

I also saw firsthand police using electronic metal-detecting devices to check whether people were carrying dangerous weapons. During schoolies, police officers wanded almost 1,000 people within the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach precincts—32 people were arrested on 42 charges and police seized seven weapons. In one example, a 39-year-old was located with a box cutter. The man was charged with possessing a knife in a public place. The wanding powers that police have in the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts have proved a success. I fundamentally believe that they are saving lives.