




Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**

**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (JACK'S LAW) AMENDMENT BILL;  
POLICE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT  
BILL (NO. 2)**

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (4.32 pm): I rise to make a short contribution in this cognate debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill and the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2). At the outset, I, like other members have—most recently the members for Bundamba, Mount Ommaney, Southern Downs and Lockyer and a long list prior to them—acknowledge Brett and Belinda Beasley who I know are still in the gallery and have been since the start of this debate. I have no doubt they are eagerly awaiting the passing of this bill soon.

Obviously their lives were thrown into disarray just before Christmas 2019. I do not intend to rehash the story about young Jack and how their life was up-ended in an instant. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge my friend and colleague the member for Bonney who, from the outset, has been a fierce advocate for the Beasley family. I first met the Beasley family, thanks to the member for Bonney, back in 2020. I have watched him and the family passionately fight for this legislative change.

While I am on my feet—and whilst it is not directly related—I also acknowledge the Stewart family. I am a good friend of Michael and his wife, Kerri-Lyn. They lost their son Balin only about a year ago in the Kawana electorate, unfortunately due to a knife crime incident. The member for Kawana and I recently had the opportunity to go on a walk with the family and other community members to raise awareness and funds for the #bintheblade for balin campaign foundation. Like the Beasley family, the Stewart family have also used their moment of grief to advocate for change and I applaud them for what they are doing.

I also acknowledge the Beaumont family who have been spoken about a bit in this chamber over the last few months. They are a family I have got to know well. I met them after the tragic murder of their young son, Angus, again to knife crime.

Knife crime is out of control. It is not just those of us on this side of the chamber and others who are saying that; it is also the police saying that. As reported on 26 February this year, a senior superintendent of police said, 'I'm at my wits end.' He said—

How many people have to die? How many families need to be wrecked because of the behaviour of a few?

The superintendent revealed in this media article that there had been a sharp rise in the rate of knife crime. He said—

We've had a 21 per cent increase in the last financial year of people between the ages of 10 and 21 with action taken against them for carry knives.

The superintendent said that there were 11 knife related murders in the past financial year and 3,000 offences for possessing a knife in a public place.

While I will be supporting this legislation and the sensible amendment to be moved by the member for Burdekin during consideration in detail, I want to comment briefly on what some members, predominantly on the opposite side of the chamber, said last night when talking about the amendments passed last sitting week in relation to youth crime, particularly increasing the penalty and sentence for the unlawful use of a motor vehicle to 14 years. I point out that under section 323 of the Criminal Code unlawful wounding, which is essentially stabbing someone, carries a maximum sentence of seven years. The amendments to the Youth Justice Act passed last sitting week were announced by the government shortly after a fatal stabbing at North Lakes on Boxing Day. They have not taken any action in relation to increasing the penalty for unlawful wounding, which is the offence in Queensland for stabbing someone with a knife or another object.

That brings me back to Jack's Law that we are debating today. Jack's Law extends the 12-month Gold Coast trial that gave police temporary powers to use wands to detect unlawful possession of knives until 30 April 2025 and expands the trial to all 15 safe night precincts throughout Queensland, including the Sunshine Coast. We know what the catalyst is for this legislative change.

The Jack Beasley Foundation, which has been spoken about a lot over the last two days, was established and is delivering the One Moment education program in schools to educate young people on the dangers of carrying a knife and the long-term effects of youth violence on offenders, victims and indirect parties, including friends and families. The one-hour presentation has been delivered in schools in Ipswich, Logan, Brisbane, the Gold Coast and New South Wales, and will be rolled out to schools in Townsville, Cairns and Victoria later this year. I once again thank and congratulate the foundation for their work in this space and for keeping Jack's legacy alive.

As the member for Lockyer has already put on the record, Mrs Beasley said—

Seven years for your child's life is really not much, is it? Life is not a video game, you can't press restart.

So true and so very sad for those families and communities who live in fear in these modern times that their loved ones may not come home from a night out.

During the law's one-year trial at the Gold Coast more than 16,000 people were searched by the police and more than 500 people were charged. Police found 242 weapons, including flick-knives, replica guns, machetes and knuckledusters. In light of these statistics and the increase in knife offences being recorded around the state, Jack's Law will be introduced to capture all 15 safe night precincts in Queensland, as I outlined previously.

Expanding the trial to capture areas of public transport stations, including public transport vehicles, is a positive step forward. As the member for Bonney said last night, every single person who is caught with a knife in these areas and who is deterred from taking one into these areas because they know the police have these powers is a potential life saved.

Last year, a 24-year-old was stabbed to death in Fortitude Valley Railway Station and a 16-year-old was stabbed at the Coomera Railway Station. The wanding trial was supplemented by the 2021 'I live my life ... without a knife' statewide crime prevention campaign, led by the Queensland Police Service in collaboration with external agencies and local partners. Through advertising community events and school presentations, the campaign raised awareness of the risk and penalties of knife carrying in public.

As the member for Bonney outlined last night, this is not a general search power for police. These powers are specifically about stopping knife crime, and 241 weapons are no longer on Gold Coast streets because of these powers. In over 21,000 interactions with police there has not been one complaint against police conduct. This is a commendable reflection on the professionalism of police.

This brings me to the contribution of the member for Maiwar which the member for Southern Downs referenced. It was disappointing that the member for Maiwar did not use the opportunity last night to acknowledge the sacrifices that people across our community have made to get us to where we are today. He opened his speech by saying that this legislation 'will not go far enough to stop the rot in the Queensland Police Service'. I want to put on record that I will be doing everything I can to ensure that all of the police stations in his electorate find out what he and his party think about the great work the police are doing off the back of the condolence motion passed in the last sitting week. I think it is deplorable that the member for Maiwar would spend most of his contribution last night bagging our local police. We all know on this side of the House—and I am sure all members know—that every night they put on their uniforms and put their lives and the safety of others above themselves.

I am mindful that other members are interested to get their thoughts on the record before we run out of time. In relation to the police service administration bill, I support the comments made by others, particularly the member for Lockyer. We need to ensure the police discipline process is beyond

reproach, because our police need the support and confidence of our community to do their job. I support the bills before the House and I also support the sensible amendments being moved by the member for Burdekin.