




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2023

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

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.26 pm): Sometimes in life you get to meet some pretty amazing people. Two of the most special people I have met in my role in this House is Brett and Belinda Beasley. I will add another one there—Mitch Beasley—and their extended family and friends. I was introduced to these incredible people through my great mate, Sam O'Connor, the member for Bonney. As much as I love these people, I really did not expect to meet people in the circumstances that these guys had gone through. I met the Beasleys just after the tragic incident that took Jack's life. It will affect his mates for the rest of their lives. It affected the Beasleys and it affected Mitch; it has affected so many in our community. I met them through the process of wanting to do something about an issue that is so prevalent in our society—that is, knife crime. I met them at the pub over a schnitzel—well, we did not have a schnitzel that day; I was promised it.

Mr O'Connor: Another day.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Another day. We talked about the serious issue that is knife crime and what we can do about it. At the time Sam and I went away and we really discussed it. I want to acknowledge Mark Wheeler as well, and the three police officers—Ash, Shane and Nat—who have also worked with the Beasleys through Jack's case.

Mr O'Connor: The detectives.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The detectives. I think they were granted a homicide award through this as well, so I want to congratulate them.

Jack was taken way too soon, just before his 18th birthday. It was on my daughter's 18th birthday—it was on Elke's birthday—on 3 October 2020 that I went to the Gold Coast to stand with the Beasleys and announce the need to do something about knife crime. I did that in the hope that we could one day bring Jack's Law into this parliament to recognise that great young man who was innocently going around doing what 17-year-olds do: out with his mates, innocently catching public transport just having a great night out. Jack's life was cut too short.

So much can be said, but what the Beasleys have been through and what they will continue to go through is just horrific. I, for one, really want to thank them for looking out for all of our kids when they go out. These guys have a goal and that goal is to stop knife crime, and that is what we all need to do. That is why I am backing the view that this should not just be a trial; let's make it permanent. Throughout the trial in just those two areas, 242 weapons were seized by police but more than that, 68 were bladed instruments. They included eight household knives and an axe. Other weapons were also seized including a baton, two hand tools, five knuckledusters, one screwdriver and one handgun replica. That is no doubt having an impact on juvenile crime.

I attended Cloyna State School the other day. It is a little primary school in my patch and they asked me what I do as a member of parliament. We can talk so much about what we do in this House, but this is why we are here: to make our kids' lives safer and better. The Jack Beasley Foundation—and I acknowledge the work of the Jack Beasley Foundation—through its education campaign is ensuring that the next generation understands the dangers of carrying a knife and the long-term impacts of youth violence on victims, families and their friends. As has been stated, the Jack Beasley Foundation is all about Detect Knives, Save Lives. When Cloyna State School kids grow up, let's hope they get to go to the Gold Coast and to other areas across Queensland and have that safe night out because they will have learnt through the Jack Beasley Foundation that it is not okay to carry a knife or a weapon in public.

Over these last couple of years many members on this side of the chamber, particularly the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Broadwater, the member for Bonney and I have really enjoyed heading down the coast for Walk 4 Jack. I encourage every single member of this chamber to support the Jack Beasley Foundation and get to the Walk 4 Jack—

Mr O'Connor: Walk 4 Jack in December.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—in December. It is a great day and a fabulous way to continue not only Jack's legacy but also the advocacy against knife crime in this state and the education that goes with that.

Mr O'Connor: Have you got your pink hat?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I have got my favourite pink hat with JBF on it. I wear it a lot and it is just fantastic.

Through my contribution I want to also acknowledge the comments that were made by the member for Kawana in relation to the loss of Balin Stewart also through knife crime. One child is enough. Two children is way too many and any more is just unacceptable. These two incredibly wonderful young men are probably the only two that this House is talking about in this debate. However, we know if more is not done about juvenile crime and knife crime more people will be killed.

I also had the honour of being in this House when as a government we introduced the One Punch Can Kill legislation. That is another piece of legislation that was introduced to try to keep our community safe. It is shocking that we even have to bring in legislation that has a wandling trial to ensure people are not carrying knives on their person with an intent to harm. Unfortunately, that is the society we live in.

I do acknowledge the comments made by the member for Kawana in relation to the cutting of the funding for the safe night precincts by the Labor government. It is just not okay. We need to make sure that our police officers are resourced properly. We need to make sure that they have every single tool at their hands so they can keep our community safe. Those hardworking police officers—like the detectives in this case, like Mark Wheeler, like all of the other officers who work in these safe night precincts—need every tool possible, and that is why wandling is so vitally important. We know it works—242 detections weapons were seized in that trial. Let's make it permanent.

I ask all members in this House to please support the amendment. Make this trial permanent. More than that, I urge members to please go into their schools and communicate the good work that the Jack Beasley Foundation is doing in relation to education.

Again, I really want to acknowledge Jack's parents, Brett and Belinda, as well as Mitch. It was great to see Mitch's car hanging around Wondai and Kingaroy. I saw it at Kingaroy with the Jack Beasley Foundation sticker. I went up to the new owner and said, 'Hey, what are you doing driving Jack Beasley's car?' It was Mitch's car but he has sold it. This young man who bought it has refused to take the sticker off because he now knows how important Jack's legacy is.