




Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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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)**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.19 pm): I would like to start by acknowledging Mr and Mrs Beasley in the gallery and offering my sincere condolences. I do not think any of us can truly appreciate how difficult it must be to lose a child in these circumstances, but to pick yourself up and to advocate strongly on an issue that will prevent this from occurring again is truly something special. I have had some experience of seeing this in action through the Hannah Clarke matter, the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation in my own electorate, and I know what tremendous courage it takes for people to do what the Beasleys are doing. I would like to sincerely thank all those people, whatever their political stripe or persuasion, who have advocated strongly in relation to this issue.

We have seen around the world, particularly in countries that have taken serious steps to curb gun violence, a significant growth in knife crimes. I do want to acknowledge former prime minister John Howard and former deputy leader Tim Fischer and the courage that they showed in the aftermath of the Port Arthur massacre, taking strong action. Unfortunately, that then creates other challenges that we have to deal with as we move forward.

Before I get onto the substance of this bill around the wandering trial and the extension of that, I wanted to share some personal reflections on my own family situation because I have a child—not a child anymore, a young adult—who has hit this stage of life. I think everybody who has been through that experience would know the actual trepidation and fear that all parents feel when their kids start heading out at night on the town, but also the joy—maybe it is not always joy—when they come in at 3 am and wake you up, that joy that you feel that they have been out with their friends and had a good time.

One of the things that I have appreciated and noticed, and I have seen it roll out in a lot of my local schools, is that the young people who are in my life through friendships with my daughter, thanks to a lot of the work that has been done in the schooling, they are quite good at conflict resolution in a way that I and my friendship group certainly were not when we were at that stage of life. I think that is down to a lot of the work that is done in schools to really work with kids to show them, teach them and educate them that there are other ways to resolve disputes and conflict rather than resorting to violence. That will not solve every single problem, but I think it is an important step forward and it is part of a multifaceted response to issues like this.

The bill anticipates an extension of the trial, and I think that is a good thing. If you have read the Griffith report, which I did take the time to do, it is clear from that report that we do need further information and data to really validate and support this law moving forward. My instinct and my gut feeling is that wandering works and it logically is something that we should be making available for police. We know, from other bodies of research around the world where strong action has been taken around gun control and gun violence, that there is an uptick in knife crime, so it would seem logical that we have this capability and we should be allowing police to employ it.

I read the Griffith report but did not draw the same conclusions as those contained in the statement of reservation from the member for Maiwar. I took a very different view. I certainly acknowledge the concerns of the people who wrote the Griffith report around police perhaps applying the powers based on stereotyping et cetera, but I think that is a broader problem that needs to be also resolved. It is not necessarily a reason not to move forward with utilising this particular technology and this particular technique to keep young people safe.

The other thing to note is that very early in the report they talk about the limitations of the report due to the time frame in which it was done—that is, COVID—and the small number of sample spaces et cetera, so I think there is a very strong argument for extending the trial.

I certainly do not have any concerns as expressed by the member for Maiwar around impacting on people's human rights. I do not think you have a right to carry weapons in public and threaten other people or, worse, assault and kill them. I just do not think you have that right. If we have to infringe on a small number of people's privacy to wand them and check if they are in that situation, I do not see that as a major issue. I have been pulled over many times and breathalysed, and thankfully have never been convicted or caught—never done it, I should say!

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr KELLY:** Careful! But my serious point in relation to that is that I do not feel my rights have been infringed. What I feel is that community safety has been enhanced, and if I have to suffer some inconvenience, so be it. If I was doing the wrong thing, as someone who has seen the outcomes of motor vehicle accidents, I would want me taken off the road and I would want me to face the full force of the law. I do not share the member's concerns in relation to that. I think this technology is a useful tool for police. It will help young people to go out and do what young people do, which is to enjoy life and have a great night out with their mates. It will help parents to perhaps rest a little easier at night, knowing that their kids can engage in a safe night out.

I do want to thank all those who have advocated strongly in relation to this. I want to thank the committee for their work. It would have been difficult, tricky and challenging emotionally to sit through an inquiry like this, but they have done that work diligently and they have respected the witnesses, whether they are for or against, and listened to them and have come up with what I consider to be an excellent report. With those few words, I commend the bill to the House.