



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 April 2023

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Knife Crime

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.02 am): The last time parliament sat we passed a historic law—Jack’s Law. We named it in honour of Jack Beasley, who lost his life to a senseless knife crime. Jack’s parents, Brett and Belinda, rose above their crippling grief to campaign for safer communities. Thanks to their relentless efforts, the parliament legislated Jack’s Law. What started as a discrete wandering trial to detect knives being carried in public is now being expanded and extended across the state.

The very first weekend after the law came into being, on what would have been Jack’s 21st birthday, the Queensland Police Service began the rollout of what will now become a statewide wandering operation. Wandering operations took place as usual on the Gold Coast but also on that weekend, for the first time, wandering operations were conducted in Fortitude Valley. Also on that weekend, wandering operations were conducted in a regional centre, in Townsville. In total, nearly 600 people were wanded or scanned; six knives were detected. Then last week, a two-day operation at Ipswich train stations resulted in 35 people being wanded, with three knives located, including a machete, and knuckledusters. Of concern is the fact that one wandering operation at Redbank Railway Station saw 18 people scanned and the detection of four weapons. That is a hit rate of about one in every four people at that location being detected with a weapon.

What we saw from the Gold Coast trial across the two years that it ran was that, on average, about one in every 100 people scanned was carrying a weapon of some description. This weekend just gone, wandering operations were expanded to Brisbane, Gold Coast, Townsville, Ipswich, Sunshine Coast, Logan, Toowoomba, Airlie Beach and Capricornia. Police advised that over the weekend they conducted wandering operations across 18 areas. That included 10 safe night precincts and eight transport hubs. Police scanned 530 people and detected eight weapons. Across the 10 safe night precincts, police scanned in excess of 450 people and located seven weapons. At our public transport hubs, police scanned about 80 people and detected one weapon.

Police advised that feedback from patrons in the party precincts and at transport hubs has been very positive. Of course, that is not surprising: if you are not carrying a knife, you have nothing to worry about if you are approached by an officer conducting wandering operations. In addition, people attending party precincts and transport hubs can have confidence in the fact that police are conducting operations to make these areas safer.

The ultimate goal is to see no-one carrying any knives in public. That is what Jack’s Law is about: detecting knives and saving lives. I look forward to the continued rollout of police wandering operations to other centres across Queensland. Jack’s Law is a force for good. Once again, I thank Brett and Belinda Beasley. Like the law named in honour of their son, Brett and Belinda are also a force for good.