




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Community Safety; Jack's Law

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.06 am): This government will always continue to invest in strategies and support laws that enhance community safety. Recently, I joined senior police and the parents of Jack Beasley, Brett and Belinda Beasley, to announce a major new legislative initiative. In the very near future we will be bringing to the parliament new laws that restrict the retail sale of knives and replica firearms, including gel blasters that look like replica firearms, to juveniles.

Our retail sales proposals include that: it will become an offence to sell knives, certain other bladed items and replica firearms, including gel blasters that look like replica firearms, to juveniles; it will become an offence to use false identification to purchase those items; and it will become an offence to advertise those items as suitable for combat. In addition, retailers will be required to securely store certain other bladed items such as machetes, axes, swords, sickles, daggers, double-edged blades and spears, among other things, prior to sale. Retailers will be required to display signage regarding age restrictions for those sales. This is about protecting the community and enhancing community safety. The proposed laws follow research and reviews conducted by the Queensland Police Service.

In addition, this month marks the six-month anniversary of Jack Beasley's legacy, Jack's Law. Police have conducted more than 2,900 hand-held electronic scanning operations since Jack's Law was extended and expanded to all safe night precincts, on public transport and at transport hubs. In that time, police have seized 350 weapons. During those wandering operations, 904 people have been charged with almost 1,600 offences and more than 31,000 people have been scanned on public transport and in nightclub precincts.

The advocacy from Brett and Belinda Beasley has been instrumental in putting Queensland on the map as nation leading in the fight against knife crime. I want to read some comments from Brett Beasley about Jack's Law and the new knife sale restrictions. Brett said—

Belinda and I will always grieve for Jack, but it is very heartening to see that his legacy lives on. Six months after Jack's Law came into effect it's really encouraging to see that Police are using Jack's legacy to undertake wandering operations right across the state. It's clearly making a real difference in helping to keep communities safe. It's also very gratifying to see ... another significant step in relation to restricting the availability of weapons, especially to young people.

Queenslanders owe a debt of gratitude to Brett and Belinda and to the Jack Beasley Foundation. They are good people and their hearts are in the right place. All they want is for Queenslanders to be safe, and that is what we all want too.