




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Knife Crime

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.49 am): When you look around the world, there are lessons to be learned. Sadly, there are jurisdictions in other parts of the world where a knife culture has taken hold, and those communities have experienced the terrible consequences that flow from that. In Queensland, we have led the nation in taking measures to combat such a culture becoming prevalent. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts and advocacy of Jack Beasley's parents, Brett and Belinda, we now have Jack's Law. What started as a trial of police wandering powers on the Gold Coast has now been rolled out across Queensland's safe night precincts and transport hubs. Jack's Law is working to disrupt and prevent crime and harm. Jack's Law is saving lives.

Today we take another important step against the scourge of knife crime. As mentioned by the Premier, today I will introduce to this parliament new laws banning the sale of knives to juveniles. This legislation will prohibit the sale of controlled items including, for example, knives, replica firearms such as certain gel blasters, axes and machetes to anyone under the age of 18. The proposed new laws include penalties for sellers who sell a knife or other controlled item to a juvenile. Should a seller fail to prohibit the sale of a controlled item a second time, the maximum penalty doubles. To further curb the notoriety of weapon possession amongst juveniles, it will also be prohibited for knives and other items to be sold or advertised in a way that suggests the item is suitable for combat, intended to be used for violence or likely to simulate or encourage violent or criminal behaviour.

We have consulted widely with the retail sector and we acknowledge that there is to be an implementation process for these changes. I am pleased to say that retail associations and major retailers are broadly supportive of the reforms we will introduce, because they are on the same page as everyone in our community—that is, they want a safe community too. The laws we introduce today will support a safer retail environment and a safer community. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government always does. Our government always puts the community first—the people of Queensland, first.