




Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR HILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2024

**SUMMARY OFFENCES (PREVENTION OF KNIFE CRIME) AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.32 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the debate on the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I understand the bill aims to reduce the accessibility of dangerous items such as knives to young people, disrupt and deter violent offences and curb weapon possession. I will reluctantly be supporting this bill even though I believe it will make little to no difference to youth crime. According to the government, since 2019 reported offences where a knife was identified as the most serious weapon have increased by 18 per cent to 12,865, and the number of reported offences committed by a person under the age of 18 where a knife was identified as the most serious weapon has risen by 22 per cent since 2018-19 up to 2,177 offences.

If this is true and knife crime has been identified as a serious threat to public safety, then why is the government not introducing minimum mandatory sentencing for knife crimes? To me, this is more of a deterrent. This bill is about the government being perceived to be doing something about juvenile crime. If a youth is intent on stealing a car, robbing a house or committing a serious crime, they will get hold of a knife or another weapon regardless of this bill or they will simply get an 18-year-old, like it says in the bill, to buy a knife for them. I really believe this is going to be very difficult to police. Stopping the intent of youth to commit serious crimes is what we need to focus on. Unless the government gets fair dinkum and introduces mandatory minimum sentencing, removal of detention as a last resort and relocation sentencing, then they are not doing what the community expects and demands of them.

I have heard banter today by both parties about removing detention as a last resort. I just want to put on record and remind the ALP and LNP that back in 2021 when the member for Traeger tabled amendments to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 they both voted against the KAP's amendments to remove detention as a last resort. This bill purely tinkers around the edges of youth crime. I call on the government to get serious on youth crime, adopt the KAP's policy of minimum mandatory sentencing, the removal of detention as a last resort, and introduce relocation sentencing as a third option for the courts. This will help solve this crime problem, and I want to bring that to the attention of the House.