




Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Knife Crime, Jack's Law

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.11 pm): Today marks another important milestone in the fight by the Crisafulli government to tackle the crime crisis that has developed over the past decade. In particular, we propose to strike another blow against the scourge of knife crime that continues to endanger lives, devastate families and rip apart communities throughout the state. In short, through amendments to be introduced this afternoon, it is proposed that Jack's Law be made permanent through a repeal of the sunset clause due to expire next year.

The House is aware of the genesis of Jack's Law. As the Premier just highlighted, in 2019, Jack Beasley, who was only 17 years old at the time, died as a result of a vicious knife attack on the Gold Coast. From that day, his parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley, worked tirelessly to bring about legislative change. This was to ensure that no other parent would have to go through the trauma, grief and distress that they suffered because of Jack's death. I pay tribute to the work of the Beasleys and the Jack Beasley Foundation for their fight to make real progress to combat knife crime. Their determination, perseverance and dedication are examples to us all. From tragedy, a significant social and legal reform has emerged which will have a long-lasting impact.

I do not have to remind the House that, despite the changes that have been made, our community is still confronted by the hideous consequences of knife crime. Only last year, Vyleen White was struck down and killed in a knife attack that defies explanation. Knife crime remains a significant blight on our state. It is sobering to reflect that in 2023 there were 3,235 victims of robbery recorded in Queensland, marking a 17 per cent increase from the previous year. Notably, 26 per cent of those robberies included the use of a knife resulting in 847 victims.

As a government and a parliament, we have a responsibility to help keep the community safe. We have observed how Jack's Law has operated since its introduction in 2023. We have heard from our police and from communities throughout the state about what could be done to make the law more effective. Consequently, we announced last year that in government we would make Jack's Law permanent. I am privileged to bring the formal process to do that today. At the crux of our proposed legislation is the removal of the sunset clause from Jack's Law and expanding it to all public places.

I have seen firsthand the impact weapons have on our community. This has hardened my resolve to extend the fight against knife crime and to make Jack's Law permanent. At the same time we will introduce a range of amendments to simplify the processes our police are required to undertake before authorising the use of a handheld scanning device. These amendments will ensure the intent of Jack's Law will be delivered in a more effective and timely fashion.

Jack's Law is a testament to the efforts of his parents and their supporters. Our support for these amendments will demonstrate that their efforts have not been in vain.