




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (MAKING JACK'S LAW PERMANENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; CORRECTIVE SERVICES (PAROLE BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.08 pm): Labor will be supporting the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. No parent should have to bury their child, at whatever age. I want to pass on my sincere condolences to Belinda and Brett Beasley. I have done that before in this chamber and I will do it again. I want to acknowledge the work they have done, much like the Clarke family in my electorate. They have taken what can only be considered an unimaginable personal tragedy and turned that into significant social change that will protect future families from having to endure what they have endured, and for that they deserve everyone's deepest respect.

They have not only advocated for these laws to be changed or introduced in Queensland but they have also campaigned and advocated for that to happen around Australia. I want to acknowledge the advocacy of the member for Bonney for these laws and the work of the member for Morayfield on these laws when he was the minister.

Every now and then my daughter and her friends choose to start their night out at our house. It is at times a bit noisy, at times a bit messy and frequently my favourite chair is overtaken, which annoys me a bit, but it really is one of my favourite times as a parent. To see young people relaxed, enjoying good company, talking about their lives and their work and being excited about the impending night out. Like all parents, as pleased as we are to see our daughter and her friends heading out for a night of fun and dancing, we worry like crazy. My other daughter and her friends spend a lot of time on public transport—they are a little bit younger—and at local shopping centres. Again, while I am pleased to see their growing level of independence, my wife and I worry about them when they are out and about.

When you read through the submissions and you see some of the stats around some of the weapons that have been confiscated I think those worries—before the introduction of these laws—are well-founded. The Jack Beasley Foundation submission noted that 1,300 weapons were confiscated over the last four years. That is an enormous amount of weapons concentrated in a number of safe night precincts and being taken out of the sorts of venues and places where my own children, and many other young people, choose to have a night out. These laws will mean that young people can have a night out, can catch a bus or a train or can head to their local shops and be a lot safer. I support that—Labor supports that.

After the dreadful crime in Port Arthur in 1996, our society did an amazing job of removing guns from the hands of criminals. I want to acknowledge the leadership of John Howard on this issue. Sadly, this success has led to people looking for other methods to harm people. As things change, we need to enable those people who are tasked with community safety to change and improve their effectiveness. That is exactly what these laws are doing. I read with interest the submission of the Queensland Police Union of Employees. It reflected many of the things that I discussed when I had the

great opportunity to meet with their president, Shane Prior. The QPU outlined how these changes will allow police to be more efficient and effective in promoting community safety. I read the many submissions that called for a full evaluation of these laws but it seems to me the data so far suggests these laws are effective and, of course, all aspects of police operations are subject to scrutiny at all levels by various bodies including this parliament. I note the committee's comments about the retention of ongoing police reporting mechanisms. This will aid bodies such as this chamber or the CCC in the monitoring of the application of these laws or any misuse of them by police. This is a non-evasive procedure which most of us have been subjected to routinely in the course of airline travel. It can be a bit annoying at times, but we all understand how airport screening processes improve safety for everyone.

My community has been impacted by knife crime and in this it is not unique. There was a very well publicised attack on a family in the middle of the night and, of course, I offer my sincere thoughts and condolences to all victims of crime, particularly the victims in this case. Wandering laws may not have prevented this attack but the amendments being put forward by the member for Gladstone around preventing people from obtaining machetes may reduce the number of people using these weapons in any circumstances. I think it is a logical extension of the objectives of Jack's Law; that is, to keep our community safe generally from knife crime. I would encourage all members of this House to support the amendments put forward by the member for Gladstone. There is no political contest here; it should just be a contest to get rid of knife crime from our community.

Finally, I want to commend the 'I live my life ... without a knife' campaign run by the Jack Beasley Foundation and the Queensland Police Service. I have seen that in action in my community. I have seen it having an impact on young people. It is educating young people and encouraging them to make better choices that will ultimately not only lead to their own safety but also to the safety of other people. Prevention will always be an extremely high priority for Labor.