




Speech By  
**Hon. Samuel O'Connor**  
**MEMBER FOR BONNEY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2025

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Knife Crime, Jack's Law

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.15 pm): On Friday, 13 December 2019, Jack Beasley and his mates caught the tram into Surfers Paradise. This was something these typical Gold Coast teenagers had done many times before, but on this trip they had no idea just how much their lives would soon be turned upside down. It was a warm summer night in our city at the start of our busy school holiday season. They were excited, heading to an apartment party in Q1, looking forward to their lives ahead after recently graduating from Pacific Pines State High School, with Jack working as a flooring apprentice.

Another group of teenagers also headed into Surfers that night, but these young men were not looking to celebrate like Jack and his mates were; they were looking for trouble. These young men made a choice to bring a knife with them on their night out. This was not a kitchen utensil; it was a hunting style knife. As Jack and his mates walked past them in the Cavill Mall, these young men had found their targets. They sprinted down the Surfers streets and confronted Jack and his mates. A 15-year-old pulled out the knife during this random attack. Jack was stabbed in the heart and his best mate, Ariki, was badly wounded. The attackers fled the scene, leaving Jack bleeding to death on a footpath in the middle of our nation's tourism capital. The streets were packed with holiday-makers. It was barely 8 pm at night.

Jack's murder devastated his family, traumatised his friends and sent shock waves across my community. As we came to terms with what happened, we searched for a solution. Barely a week after saying their final goodbye to their youngest son, Brett and Belinda Beasley reached out to me as their local MP. They wanted to do all they could to stop any other family going through the pain they and Jack's older brother, Mitch, and everyone who knew and loved Jacko were feeling. They did not just accept what happened to Jack as normal. They wanted to do something about it.

We started with a petition for action out at our local light and heavy rail station in Helensvale based around a simple idea: detect knives, save lives. It was about giving police the ability to not just find knives but to deter young people from even thinking about taking one on a night out. From there, we created the Jack Beasley Foundation, the centrepiece of our community-driven campaign for change. In the wake of a senseless random act of violence which destroyed their lives, Brett and Belinda Beasley have created a legacy in their son's name which will now continue without an end date, thanks to the new laws we are introducing today.

Over 1,000 weapons have been taken off the streets of Queensland because of the Beasleys. Versions of Jack's Law are now in place in New South Wales, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and, just yesterday, the Beasleys were in the Tasmanian parliament to see police knife detection powers introduced there as well. They have taken their advocacy to the national level, too, with federal LNP leader Peter Dutton committing to give the Australian Federal Police these powers and to support states and territories to implement uniform knife laws if elected.

But we know laws alone will not fix this. We need to change the culture. The JBF's education program has seen Belinda share her story with thousands of students, alongside a talk from police about the dangers of knives, at over 60 schools, with more than 40 booked in this year alone. Through sharing their story, the Beasleys are creating the change. They are the strongest people I know, and I am proud to call them friends.

On behalf of my community, I thank the Premier for backing a permanent and expanded Jack's Law. I thank the police minister for listening to the feedback from officers on the ground to deliver commonsense changes to the way these police powers operate, and I thank everyone who has backed the Beasleys on this journey. Our new laws, strengthening and enshrining permanent police knife detection powers, will mean Jack Beasley's name will never be forgotten.