




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2023

**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (JACK'S LAW) AMENDMENT BILL;
POLICE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
BILL (NO. 2)**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cognate debate on the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) and the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill. I would like to limit my contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill aspect of the debate as I have had a bit to do with the Beasley family. Brett and Belinda are certainly great people. I cannot fathom the pain they have gone through, losing their son at such a young age over something so senseless. Out of the nightmare they have gone through, they have started a dream to stop this type of violence, and that is something that they should be certainly very much commended for. They should also be commended for their courage; they are courageous people who are determined to stop this scourge of knife crime in our communities.

I note the committee's report recommendation No. 3 which says, 'The committee recommends that the public education program is developed in consultation with the key stakeholders.' I want to put on record and table in the House a program that the Beasley family does in our local schools. This program certainly does have merit in this debate because it is targeting young people to say to them, 'You do not need to carry a knife.'

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the Secretary, Jack Beasley Fund Incorporated/Jack Beasley Foundation, Ms Belinda Beasley, regarding an education campaign called 'I live my life without a knife' [409](#).

The reason I am so passionate about this is that a little while back I was doing a community roadside near one of the larger schools in my electorate and a group of young people walked past. A person who was with me at that roadside asked those students if they ever carry a knife. Those young people said they do because they think it is a way of protecting themselves. This is why the program that the Jack Beasley Foundation is doing is so incredibly important to have in our education system, to teach these individuals that it is not okay to carry a knife. You do not need to carry a knife because potentially what is going to happen is that knife will be used against you and may cost you your life.

I do thank the Beasley family for doing this and pushing these programs. I hope that all members can show their local schools that this program is something worthwhile and needs to be taken across Queensland to stop this scourge and to tell young people, 'No, you don't need to carry a knife.'

I would also like to give a big shout-out to Wayne and Leanne. Wayne is the Hornets president and is a fantastic man, and I have a lot to do with Leanne and the Helensvale markets. Their support of the Beasley family is commendable. You could never ask for better friends in life than these individuals.

I want to state my concerns about the expiry date of this bill. I agree with the LNP members wholeheartedly that this bill should continue the trial in perpetuity; it should be ongoing. After the next election the make-up of the House could be very different. A minor party could hold the balance of

power and one of the minor parties has already stated they do not agree with quite a few aspects of these laws. I fear that this will eventually place other young people's lives in danger. As a parent—and all parents in this chamber would agree—I would hate this to happen to a person I know. I just say: we need to be very careful. Therefore we need to accept the amendments to be moved by the member for Burdekin, the shadow minister, to allow this trial to continue in perpetuity.

I aimed to keep my comments as brief as possible because many other people want to speak, but I do worry about that aspect. I want to ensure that Queenslanders are kept safe and young people understand that having a knife is not something they need for their own safety as they could potentially be killed by their own knife.