

27 October 2024

Via email: submissions.strategy.support@DPFEM.tas.gov.au

SUBMISSION RE: proposed amendments to the *Police Offences Act 1935*

My name is [REDACTED]

My life was forever changed in 2019 when my son, [REDACTED], was stabbed to death in a knife attack.

There are around 140 offences a year committed against people involving knives, yet Tasmania is well behind other states when it comes to tackling this issue.

While I welcome the opportunity to comment on the draft legislation, it is sadly, defective.

To be clear, this legislation will do very little to reduce the number of knives on our streets. It will do very little to reduce knife-related crime and it would do very little to prevent the circumstances that lead to the death of my son from happening again.

This draft legislation will not 'crack down' on knife crime, as the Minister has said. Instead it is tinkering around the edges to give the appearance of taking action. It is disappointing that the Government appears to be so adverse to taking action in the face of overwhelming evidence that reform in other states is working and having a demonstrable impact.

Queensland has already introduced laws that enable police to conduct random, non-invasive searches of anyone suspected of carrying a knife or another weapon. Hundreds of knives have been taken out of the community and countless lives have no doubt been saved.

New South Wales and Western Australia are in the process of introducing similar laws.

In the same way that Tasmanian police have the power to pull over any driver and conduct a random breath test, they also need the power to conduct non-invasive searches.

Sadly, this draft legislation is deficient, and I urge the Government to do more to protect the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

