

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why is the StandUp knife crime prevention and education program being offered in secondary schools?

Education plays a pivotal role in preventing knife crime by equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and support they need to make positive choices.

Knife crime is of increasing concern within our communities. We know that teenagers aged 14 and 15 years are at a peak period of influence, both emotionally and socially. Friends, family, media and culture are influencing their world.

Through educational programs and initiatives, we can talk openly with our teenagers about the impact of knife crime, to ensure that our youth are well informed and empowered to make positive choices, to build safe and resilient communities.

The StandUp program does this by:

- **Raising awareness and promoting safe choices**

Knife crime prevention education is crucial in helping teenagers understand the dangers of carrying and using knives. It highlights the potential consequences of their actions and emphasises the importance of seeking help.

- **Supporting students and teachers**

Providing knife crime prevention education in schools can help to create safer environments for both students and teachers. Schools are provided with resources to support and inform students on how to seek help or report unsafe behaviour.

Why is this program delivered to Year 9 and 10 students?

The StandUp presentation targets secondary students aged 14–16, a group increasingly involved in knife crime and vulnerable to peer pressure. Over the last 10 years, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) has seen an increase in young Queenslanders carrying knives and weapons. Research shows this age group is highly receptive to educational messaging. StandUp addresses the risks and serious legal consequences of carrying knives through clear messaging and direct discussion.

What is the benefit of having this program delivered in my school?

Knife crime is a complex issue that can be challenging for teachers to address with students.

This program is delivered by QPS officers, who provide the credibility and authority to deliver trusted and knowledgeable information to students about Queensland's knife laws and consequences of knife carrying.

The topics discussed in the program are linked to the Australian Curriculum, Year 9 and 10 levels.

A key outcome of the program is to reduce the appeal of knife carrying and encourage help-seeking behaviours, which will contribute to creating safer schools and communities.

What this program doesn't do

StandUp educates students on knife laws, the consequences of knife carrying and usage, and how to report unsafe behaviour.

It does not ask students to share their personal experiences or ask them to disclose knowledge of criminal behaviour during the session.

The program does not refer to real footage or factual content. Case studies included in the program are fictional and draw on the expertise of first responders for accuracy.

How do I report concerns about knife crime anonymously?

It's important to remember that if there is immediate danger, you should always call Triple Zero (000).

If the situation is not happening now and there is no immediate danger, you can report knife carrying anonymously by :

- Calling Policelink on 131 444 or reporting online
- Calling Crimestoppers Queensland on 1800 333 000 or online at www.crimestoppers.com.au
- Speaking to a teacher or school counsellor at your child's school who will follow their school's reporting procedures.



What should I do if I suspect someone I know is carrying or using knives?

If you or anyone else is in **immediate danger**, call **Triple Zero (000)**.

Do not confront the person directly. Report your concerns to a trusted authority.

- **Parents** : Contact the child's school principal or teacher. Speak to a trusted teacher, school guidance counsellor, or the police for advice.
- **Teachers** : Follow the school's safety policies and immediately report to the designated School Safety lead, headteacher or school principal.

Encourage the child to talk about their fears, speak to a trusted adult and offer them support and help to find safer alternatives.

What support services are available for young people who may be influenced by knife crime?

For access to information about youth support services visit, <https://www.qld.gov.au/youth/support-services>

You can also contact:

- [PCYC Youth Support Services](#)
- [Reachout Australia – Online support for young Australians and their parents.](#)
- [Kids Help line: call 1800 55 1800.](#)
- [Headspace: 1800 650 890](#)
- [Lifeline: call 13 1114](#)
- [Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636](#)
- [Queensland Government child and youth mental health services:](#)
Contact the crisis line on 07 3068 2555.

For more information, visit www.qld.gov.au/standup or contact the QPS Knife Crime Prevention Team by email on knifecrimeprevention@police.qld.gov.au

