

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

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Crowd controller licence suspended

A security guard has lost the right to work as a crowd controller after failing to tell the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs of his convictions for assault and resisting police.

Mr Ihor Storoszczuk failed to disclose his convictions when he renewed his security licence.

Following a successful prosecution by OCBA for the non-disclosure, Mr Storoszczuk faced disciplinary action on the ground that he was no longer a fit and proper person to hold a security licence.

Storoszczuk had been convicted of five offences, including common assault and resisting arrest, arising out of a single incident. The victim of the assault was another security guard. The District Court found that he deliberately failed to tell the Commissioner of the charges because he feared that disclosure might jeopardise his licence.

'The circumstances of the defendant's offences demonstrate an unacceptable lack of self-control', the Court said. 'The defendant has demonstrated by the commission of these criminal offences that he is susceptible to losing his temper and resorting to unacceptable violence'.

The Court ordered that the condition allowing Storoszczuk to undertake work as a crowd controller be removed from his security and investigation agents licence, and that his licence be suspended for 6 months.

Under reforms to the *Security and Investigation Agents Act 1995* introduced in December 2005, assault convictions may result in immediate cancellation of a security agent's licence. Reforms now also include comprehensive background and identity checks.

The reforms to the security licensing legislation are among the first of their type in Australia. They are aimed directly at reducing crowd controller violence and organised crime associated with the security and hospitality industries.

The reforms include:

- **Fingerprinting** of security agents;
- **Random alcohol and drug testing** of crowd controllers;
- Power to require a **psychological assessment** of crowd controllers or applicants;
- Requirement of crowd controllers to undertake **specified refresher training**;
- **Compulsory licence suspension** for crowd controllers **charged with certain offences**;
- **Automatic cancellation** of a security agent's licence **if convicted** of prescribed offences.

To check whether a person holds a licence, or to verify someone's licence details, visit the Licensing Public Register at www.ocba.sa.gov.au or telephone 8204 9686 or 131 882 (country callers).