

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

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First security agents' licences suspended under new laws

Reforms introduced late last year have meant that the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs has been able to suspend the security licences of three men who have been charged with offences of violence.

The laws governing the security industry changed substantially in early December 2005. New laws were introduced to deal with crime infiltration in the security industry and to reduce the number of assaults involving crowd controllers occurring in and around licensed premises. Mandatory suspensions will be imposed on crowd controllers who are charged with certain offences relating to drugs, firearms or violence.

Suspensions have included:

- One agent has been charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm. He allegedly attacked a woman with a baseball bat after an argument about a car being parked across the walkway near her home.
- Another allegedly assaulted his own daughter and threatened his wife.
- The third security agent was in an intoxicated and extremely aggressive state when he was charged with assaulting a police officer and resisting arrest.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat, said that the reforms, which increase the powers of both the South Australia Police (SAPOL) and the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA), have improved the licensing system and will help to identify and remove undesirable security agents.

“Security agents who may put patrons at risk through their violent and inappropriate behaviour have no place in the security industry.”

Pursuant to section 23B of the *Security and Investigations Act 1995*, when a person is charged with any of a range of offences, the Commissioner must suspend the person's licence until the charges have been tried, at which time a review of the licence will be undertaken to determine whether the suspension will be revoked.

Further to the changes, SAPOL has tested over 150 crowd controllers for alcohol while working, and randomly tested a sample of 26 crowd controllers for drugs. SAPOL has notified OCBA that four people failed to submit urine samples, with further advice to follow as to the reasons for failing to comply.

For information on the new security agent licensing requirements, please contact OCBA's Business and Occupational Services branch on 8204 9686 or visit www.ocba.sa.gov.au. For information on the new requirements for premises with liquor and gaming licences, please contact OLGC on 8226 8410 or visit www.olgc.sa.gov.au