

Media Release

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Convicted rapist loses security guard's licence

A security guard who was convicted of rape and assault has lost his security agent's licence, highlighting the significance of forthcoming reforms in the security industry.

In the District Court, His Honour Judge Lee and Assessors Steuart and MacDonald made an order that the security guard licence of Fortunato Lucky Tedesco be cancelled immediately. Tedesco is now effectively prevented from obtaining a licence again.

In November 2002 Tedesco was found guilty and convicted of two counts of rape and one count of common assault. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat said he was pleased with the outcome.

"The licensing system for crowd controllers and other security agents is meant to protect the public. From his convictions, Mr Tedesco has been proven to be a person who should not hold a security and investigation agent's licence."

Delivering the Court's reasons for decision, Judge Lee said that it was necessary to impose a cancellation because of the trust and integrity people expect from a security guard. They expect a security guard to be a person of good character.

"We have reached the conclusion that any penalty falling short of outright cancellation would fail to adequately reflect the need for this Court to maintain public confidence in the standards and integrity of the security industry."

Reforms to the *Security and Investigation Agents Act 1995* passed through both houses of Parliament in June. The new legislation will ensure that convictions like Tedesco's would immediately cancel a security agent's licence. Under the current laws, the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs must bring disciplinary proceedings in the District Court to seek the cancellation of a licence.

The reforms to the security licensing legislation are the first of their type in Australia to crack down on crowd controller violence and organised crime associated with the security and hospitality industries.

They include

- **Compulsory licence suspension** for crowd controllers **charged with certain offences**;
- **Automatic cancellation** of a security agent's licence **if convicted** of prescribed offences;
- **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**.

A right of appeal against a Commissioner's determination also exists.

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).



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