

South Australia's Counter-Terrorism Action Plan

Working together for a safer community



Contents

Introduction	2
Our focus	4
A resilient community	5
Prevention	6
Diversion.....	7
Disruption and incident response	8
Recovery	10
Rehabilitation and reintegration	11
National arrangements	12





Introduction

South Australia has a diverse and harmonious society where we are free to express different views, celebrate our cultures and religions, and participate in the variety of activities that our state has to offer.

While we have enjoyed a relatively peaceful history, we must remain alert to the potential actions of a small number of individuals who want to divide us and threaten our core values of human rights, the rule of law, democracy, equal opportunity and freedom.

In November 2022, Australia's National Terrorism threat was lowered from 'Probable' to 'Possible'. This means credible intelligence indicates there are fewer people who want to violently attack Australia.

This should not affect our daily behaviour or activities, but government authorities will publicise any changes we need to be aware of.

The South Australian Government rejects all forms of violent extremism and works with all parts of the community to promote a safe, harmonious, and inclusive society and to build resilience.

The nature of terrorism and violent extremism is also changing, and we must be ready to adapt our laws, programs and capability to meet these changes.

The South Australian Government collaborates with governments across Australia and around the world to share information, gather intelligence and build our collective capability to meet the changing threat environment.

Our strong and cohesive community is our best defence against the threat of terrorism and violent extremism. Businesses, local government, citizens, schools, and community groups all have an important role to play in building strong connections between communities, reporting suspicious activity and planning and cooperating with authorities. Community action and collaboration are critical to countering extremism and building a unified, resilient society.



Our focus

The South Australian Government addresses the threat of terrorism and violent extremism at every stage - from prevention and diversion to response and rehabilitation. All levels of government, along with the private sector and the community, have important roles to play in this process and our focus is on working together to achieve positive results.

Our goal is a safe and resilient South Australia where all our residents and visitors can enjoy the fantastic lifestyle and diversity this state has to offer without unnecessary interference or fear of violence.

How we achieve this goal:

- We support community leaders and organisations to build a strong and resilient South Australia.
- We build the capability of our law enforcement agencies to respond to changing threats.
- We develop strong laws to prevent, disrupt and respond to terrorism and violent extremism.

The pillars of our approach





A resilient community

Underpinning all this is a focus on building resilience within our community to withstand any emergency or significant disruption we may experience.

South Australia's Disaster Resilience Strategy, as well as the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, provides a framework for how community members, businesses, state and local government and organisations work together to build our ability to survive, adapt and grow, no matter what happens.

Our principles for managing all threats and emergencies are embedded in our State Emergency Management Plan.

Prevention

South Australia has a diverse and harmonious society, which must be protected.

The strength and cohesion of our diverse society is our best defence against terrorism and violent extremism and we all have a role to play in keeping our community safe. An inclusive society supports people who are disconnected and isolated and we continue to work with all South Australians to maintain the strong social networks we have across the state.

Sporting and arts clubs, community centres, schools and other educational institutions have a key role in building and maintaining connected and resilient communities. They notice and respond when people begin to become disconnected and isolated from their community and support them to re-engage with positive influences.

South Australians enjoy the freedom to attend sporting events, concerts and festivals and participate in all the social activities our state has to offer. Unfortunately, these activities can also become targets for those who want to do harm. It is crucial that we work with local councils, businesses, and event organisers to manage risks so people can enjoy these activities without unnecessary interference.

We continuously monitor developments in Australia and overseas to make sure we have the right legal and technical arrangements to keep South Australians safe from terrorism and violent extremism. This includes working with other Australian governments to introduce effective and proportionate legislation to address risks to the community.

Community engagement

- Through the Countering Violent Extremism Sub-Committee, the South Australian Government is looking at ways to work with our partners and groups to discourage behaviour in the community that may lead to radicalisation and terrorist activity.
- South Australia Police has expanded the scope and role of community constables to help engage with and better understand the issues faced by communities across our state.
- Information has been made available to school leaders to support early identification and action in the event that children and young people are considered at risk.

Audit of public places

- South Australia Police has worked with local councils, event organisers and venue operators to identify and audit a range of public places that align with Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism. We continue to work together to implement new strategies to help keep people safe in crowded places and at events.

What can you do?



- We can all help to build a cohesive, inclusive and resilient society, by welcoming and supporting each other. By looking out for each other and offering help when needed, we make sure people feel connected.
- In circumstances where suspicious behaviour is happening now and is likely to cause serious injury or is life-threatening, ring Triple Zero (000).
- All South Australians can help reduce the risk of violence and terrorism by reporting information that incites hatred, division and violence.
 - National Security Hotline by phone on 1800 123 400, email on hotline@nationalecurity.gov.au or MMS on 0429 771 822.
 - Crime Stoppers by phone on 1800 333 000.

Diversion

As South Australians, we are free to openly and peacefully express our beliefs. This is an important part of our democracy and helps to shape our society. However, this freedom does not include advocating or using violence to achieve a political, religious or ideological goal.

Only a very small number of people will be radicalised to the point where they seek to use violence to promote a cause, and this can happen to people across any ethnic, national, political and religious group.

When a person does become radicalised we all have a duty to act.

The South Australian Government is focused on identifying and diverting people from the path to radicalisation that may lead to violent extremism and terrorism. Our legal framework includes offences against creating, possessing and disseminating material that glorifies, encourages, promotes or could help someone prepare or commit a terrorist act.

The increased access to diverse information online enriches our community, but it can also lead people susceptible to radicalisation to material that promotes, or tries to recruit them, to terrorism and violent extremism. South Australia Police is actively targeting individuals online to help prevent people sharing or being exposed to violent extremist material.

Staff across government have been trained to identify early signs of radicalisation and refer people for support or further assessment. This includes the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre, which provides a specialist capability to assess and manage the mental health level of individuals who may be fixated towards dignitaries challenges who may be seeking to commit acts of grievance-fuelled violence.

We continue to build partnerships with relevant organisations to make sure everyone has the appropriate level of training to contribute to a safe and cohesive community.

Fixated threat assessment centre

The Fixated Threat Assessment Centre includes personnel from South Australia Police and mental health professionals. It follows a national approach to improve the ability to identify and manage the coordination and review of people at risk of violence because of fixation on dignitaries or grievances, or radicalisation to violent extremism, where mental health is a contributing factor.

Inclusion support program

The South Australian Government runs an Inclusion Support Program that works with young people at risk of radicalisation to divert them away from violent extremism. All staff working on the program have received specialist training to give them the skills to work with young people who are vulnerable to radicalisation.

Preventing radicalisation in our prisons

To prevent our prisons from becoming possible sites of radicalisation or recruitment, a specialised counter-radicalisation strategy is being developed to prevent, detect and disrupt radicalisation towards violence within prisons and to safely and securely manage violent extremist prisoners and offenders.

What can you do?



- In circumstances where suspicious behaviour is happening now and is likely to cause serious injury or is life-threatening, ring Triple Zero (000).
- We should always be alert and report suspicious behaviour to the relevant authorities, including:
 - National Security Hotline by phone on 1800 123 400, email on hotline@nationalecurity.gov.au or MMS on 0429 771 822.
 - Crime Stoppers by phone on 1800 333 000.
- If you are worried that someone you know is at risk of becoming radicalised, talk to police, a school teacher or a trusted leader in your community. While this might feel difficult, it is always better to seek support early.
- The Living Safe Together website (www.livingsafetogether.gov.au) has more information on how you can help them.

Disruption and incident response

While we focus on diverting people from radicalising towards violence and preventing them from planning and engaging in violent extremism and terrorism, we must also be prepared to respond should an incident occur.

Events around the world have demonstrated that terrorism and violent extremism can happen anywhere and at any time. Unfortunately we are not immune to this possibility. Our law enforcement and intelligence agencies are well equipped to disrupt terrorists and it is important for people to understand what they can do to keep themselves safe and help police and other security professionals respond quickly and effectively.

We hold regular exercises, including with other states and territories, to test our arrangements and make sure we are well prepared for any incident. South Australia Police works closely with its law enforcement counterparts around the country and national security agencies to gather and assess what is needed to disrupt the plans of terrorists and help keep our citizens safe. In any incident, protecting lives is the absolute priority and law enforcement agencies will prioritise early disruption of a planned attack over prosecution.

Both State and Commonwealth laws provide police with a range of powers that help them to disrupt terrorists and violent extremists. These include the ability to stop and search or even detain people to prevent an imminent attack. The legislative framework contains safeguards to make sure that the powers available to law enforcement agencies are proportionate and only used where appropriate.

The South Australian Government is focused on building on these provisions to give our first responders the legal framework and resources they need to respond effectively and protect South Australians from harm should the worst happen.

Security response section

- The South Australian Government has a Security Response Section within South Australia Police to provide a rapid response capability.
- This unit includes sworn officers who have specialist training and equipment to enable them to respond to terrorism incidents and other domestic events of a violent nature.

Use of force

- In 2018, the Government passed legislation that provides certainty to South Australia Police in the use of lethal force when responding to a terrorist incident. This will help police respond to an incident quickly and effectively and protect our citizens.

Training security guards

- While our highly-trained police are quick to respond, they are not always the first
- people on the scene when there is an active armed offender, or at large public events and gatherings. In recognition of this and in line with national priorities, the South Australian Government has committed to training security guards to build their capability to respond to a terrorist incident.

Terrorism investigation emergency response plan

- The plan has been prepared to ensure South Australia Police has an effective plan for a rapid, coordinated and robust investigational response to a terrorist incident.
- The responsibility for the operational response and investigation of terrorist incidents is assigned to State police services via National Counter Terrorism arrangements and the Australian constitution.
- South Australia Police have developed an Investigation Cadre with adequately trained members to respond in an investigational capacity to any terrorism incident.

What can you do?



- In circumstances where the suspicious behaviour is happening now and is likely to cause serious injury or is life-threatening, ring Triple Zero (000).
- Know what to do in an emergency. Be prepared and follow the advice of police and emergency services.
- Should an attack occur, what you do matters. The three words you need to remember are ESCAPE. HIDE. TELL.
 - ESCAPE - move quickly and quietly away from danger, but only when it is safe to do so.
 - If you can't escape, HIDE - stay out of sight and silence your mobile phone.
 - TELL - call the police by dialling Triple Zero (000) when it is safe.



ESCAPE. HIDE. TELL.

Recovery

Recovery is about helping re-establish the normal pattern of life of individuals, families and communities affected by terror events, should one unfortunately occur. It focuses on restoring the emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing of affected people, including restoring physical infrastructure, the economy and environment.

The South Australian Government has well-established plans and a network of government, community and private organisations to address the recovery needs of the community. The state government will coordinate recovery operations and support services in a way that engages the community in the decisions that affect them.

Terror events are traumatic, and it is common to see public demonstrations of grief and compassion. These demonstrations may include volunteering, spontaneous public memorials, floral tributes and donations. The state government has plans to respectfully manage memorials and donations with stakeholders.

Other plans are in place to assist you with emergency accommodation or temporary relocation, insurance, emergency financial assistance, document replacement and advice about accessing essential services.

What can you do?



- Build strong support networks of family, friends and neighbours now. Most people will suffer stress and grief after living through any kind of traumatic event and personal support structures are important to aid the recovery process.
- For those who need more support after a terror event, more information about what to do and what services are available may be found at www.sa.gov.au/recovery or by calling the South Australian Recovery Hotline 1800 302 787.



Rehabilitation and reintegration

A crucial part of countering terrorism and violent extremism is ensuring that individuals convicted of terrorism-related offences are given every opportunity to disengage from violence and appropriately prepare for reintegration into the community. Any individual sentenced to imprisonment in South Australia has access to a range of rehabilitation services focused on addressing the underlying causes of violence and teaching new skills and training. This includes individuals convicted of terrorism-related offences.

Post-sentence supervision and detention

In some instances, terror suspects may continue to pose a significant risk to community safety at the end of their sentence. For these instances, the South Australian *Criminal Law (High Risk Offenders) Act 2015* establishes post-sentence options, including continuing detention orders and extended supervision orders.

Under the *Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth)*, similar orders, including control orders can be applied to individuals convicted of Commonwealth terrorism offences.



National arrangements

Like many of the challenges we face, terrorism and violent extremism do not respect state and national borders. South Australia has robust arrangements in place to prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from terrorist incidents, but we cannot do this alone.

We work closely with the Australian Government, the New Zealand Government and our counterparts in all other states and territories to help address the dynamic threats posed by terrorism and extreme violence. Arrangements are in place for South Australia to receive support during any potential terrorist incident.

Australia's Counter-Terrorism Strategy: Safeguarding Our Community Together was released in 2022 and is complemented by *Australia's National Counter-Terrorism Plan* and other key strategies including *Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism* and a range of other guidelines.

The Australian Counter-Terrorism Strategy can be found at [Safeguarding Our Community Together, Australia's Counter-Terrorism Strategy 2022](https://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/safeguarding-our-community-together) ([nationalsecurity.gov.au](https://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au))

This coordinated national approach targets prevention as the first line of defence and aims to build our collective capability to disrupt, respond to and, if needed, recover from any terrorism events.

The Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee meets regularly to monitor and assess national and state counter-terrorism arrangements and to make sure we are prepared to respond to the challenge of terrorism.

More information on national arrangements can be found at [nationalsecurity.gov.au](https://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au)

How citizens can help



South Australia Police

police.sa.gov.au

[f @SouthAustraliaPolice](https://www.facebook.com/SouthAustraliaPolice)

[t @SAPoliceNews](https://twitter.com/SAPoliceNews)



Living Safe Together

www.livingsafetogether.gov.au



Crime Stoppers

[crimestopperssa.com.au](https://www.crimestopperssa.com.au)

1800 333 000

000 Emergency

If you are ever in an emergency or you witness a terrorist attack, contact triple zero 000.

This is a free call from any phone in Australia.

After dialing 000, an operator will ask which service you require- ambulance, police or fire.

National Security Hotline

[nationalsecurity.gov.au](https://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au)

1800 123 400 or MMS on 0429 771 822

hotline@nationalsecurity.gov.au

State Emergency Management Plan

www.dpc.sa.gov.au/responsibilities/security-and-emergency-management/state-emergency-management-plan





www.security.sa.gov.au



With the exception of the Piping Shrike emblem, other material or devices protected by Aboriginal rights or a trademark, and subject to review by the Government of South Australia at all times, the content of this document is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence. All other rights are reserved.

© Crown in right of the State of South Australia.

2023 | FIS 984767

