



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAFER COMMUNITIES



OFFICIAL

Meredith Burgess
Acting State President
RSL South Australia
ANZAC House
Torrens Training Depot
Victoria Drive
Adelaide SA 5000

Dear Acting State President Burgess,

Thank you for your letter of the 30 January 2025. I note the significant work that the Returned and Services League carries out in support of ex-service and serving members and their families. I am grateful for you raising the issue of interactions with veterans or vulnerable people with assistance animals.

I regret that I do not have sufficient information regarding the interaction to which you refer to enable me to provide specific comment on that matter.

South Australia Police has high standards and expectations for respectful interactions with all members of the public. These are encompassed in our values, our guiding principles and our internal policies. We are committed to providing accessible policing as we strive to forge safer communities for everyone.

To ensure we provide exemplary service, South Australia Police employees receive a significant amount of high-quality training to support their individual roles across the organisation, developing operational skills, academic excellence and enhanced engagement capability.

Recognising that there are some sections of the public with particular vulnerabilities or needs, employees are provided with training in diversity and inclusion, disability awareness, autism awareness and other specific diversity training through on-line learning material and face to face training. Additionally, police cadets also receive training around complex communication situations and foundational interpersonal skills. Training is reviewed regularly. We are always grateful for suggestions that may enhance our training and service delivery.



**Government of
South Australia**

Service Integrity Leadership Collaboration Courage Respect

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We currently have material available online regarding assistance dogs, but I will ask for this to be promoted, and other resources made available through our Diversity and Inclusion Branch. If you have any guidance materials or information that may support our officers in this regard, the Diversity and Inclusion Branch would be pleased to receive it for consideration and can be contacted at:

16(1)(a)(iv) & 16(b)

Yours sincerely,

Grant Stevens APM LEM
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

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