



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAFER COMMUNITIES



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Your Ref :
Our Ref: 23-0954
Enquiry:
Telephone: 7322 3347
Facsimile: 7322 4180

Hon. Ms Laura Curran MLC
Parliament House
Adelaide SA 5000

Email: lungisa.bickle@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Hon. Curran

Re: Freedom of Information Act application

In reference to your application made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), access was sought to:

“Please provide copies of all documents containing the following information: The purpose and function of the SAPOL Mental Health Co-Response Project including how it applies to SAPOL employees and the eligibility criteria of the program. The number of people who use the program per year.”

On 31 October 2022, I had a telephone conversation with Ms Bickle regarding the scope of your request. She confirmed that you were not seeking all documents as stated, just the last part of your request. She narrowed the scope to:

“The purpose and function of the SAPOL Mental Health Co-Response Project including how it applies to SAPOL employees and the eligibility criteria of the program.”

South Australia Police (SAPOL) has located a document that falls within the scope of your request. The document is numbered and described in the following schedule. The schedule contains the details of the determination in compliance with section 23.



**Government of
South Australia**

Service Integrity Leadership Collaboration Courage Respect

South Australia Police, GPO Box 1539, Adelaide SA 5001 ABN 93 799 021 552 www.police.sa.gov.au



SA POLICE - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION UNIT SCHEDULE		
No.	Document Description	Status
1	<i>The purpose and function of the SAPOL Mental Health Co-Response Project.</i>	Full Release

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published on the SAPOL website Disclosure Log. A copy of PC045 can be found at https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf. If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing by 23 December 2022.

Yours sincerely



Senior Sergeant Paul Friend
Freedom of Information Unit
(Accredited Freedom of Information Officer)

23 November 2022

The purpose and function of the SAPOL Mental Health Co-Response Project including how it applies to SAPOL employees and the eligibility criteria of the program. The number of people who use the program per year.

To more efficiently and effectively manage mental health events, SAPOL and Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN) have formed a partnership to develop a co-response model. This trial partners a police officer and a mental health clinician together to respond to SAPOL mental health related events. The team will be available between 1100 and 2300 - 7 days. The trial will commence on 5th September 2022 and will run for 12 months.

Objectives of the 'Mental Health Co-Response Trial' include:

- Reduction of police time spent on scene at mental health taskings.
- Primary responding patrols released more quickly from the scene of mental health incidents
- Reduced conveyances to Emergency Departments for persons experiencing a mental health crisis.
- Reduction of time spent waiting in Emergency Departments
- More efficient assessments made of detainees in custody experiencing situational crisis
- Better outcomes for community members experiencing a mental health crisis.