

SECTION ONE: WHO WE ARE



The NSW Police Force is one of the largest police organisations in the English speaking world.

Our Charter

Known as the Night Watch, it began as the first civilian police force in Australia, formed by Governor Arthur Phillip in 1789 to guard Sydney Town.

In 1862 all Watch Teams were combined under the *Police Regulation Act 1862* to form the NSW Police Force. That Act was later replaced by the *Police Regulation Act 1899*.

In June 1987, the NSW Police Force (which had carriage of operations) and the NSW Police Department (which had carriage of policy and administration) were amalgamated.

Today the NSW Police Force has 19,516 employees: 15,633 police officers and 3,883 civilian staff. We operate under the *Police Act 1990* and the *Police Regulations 2008*.

The Volunteers in Policing Program

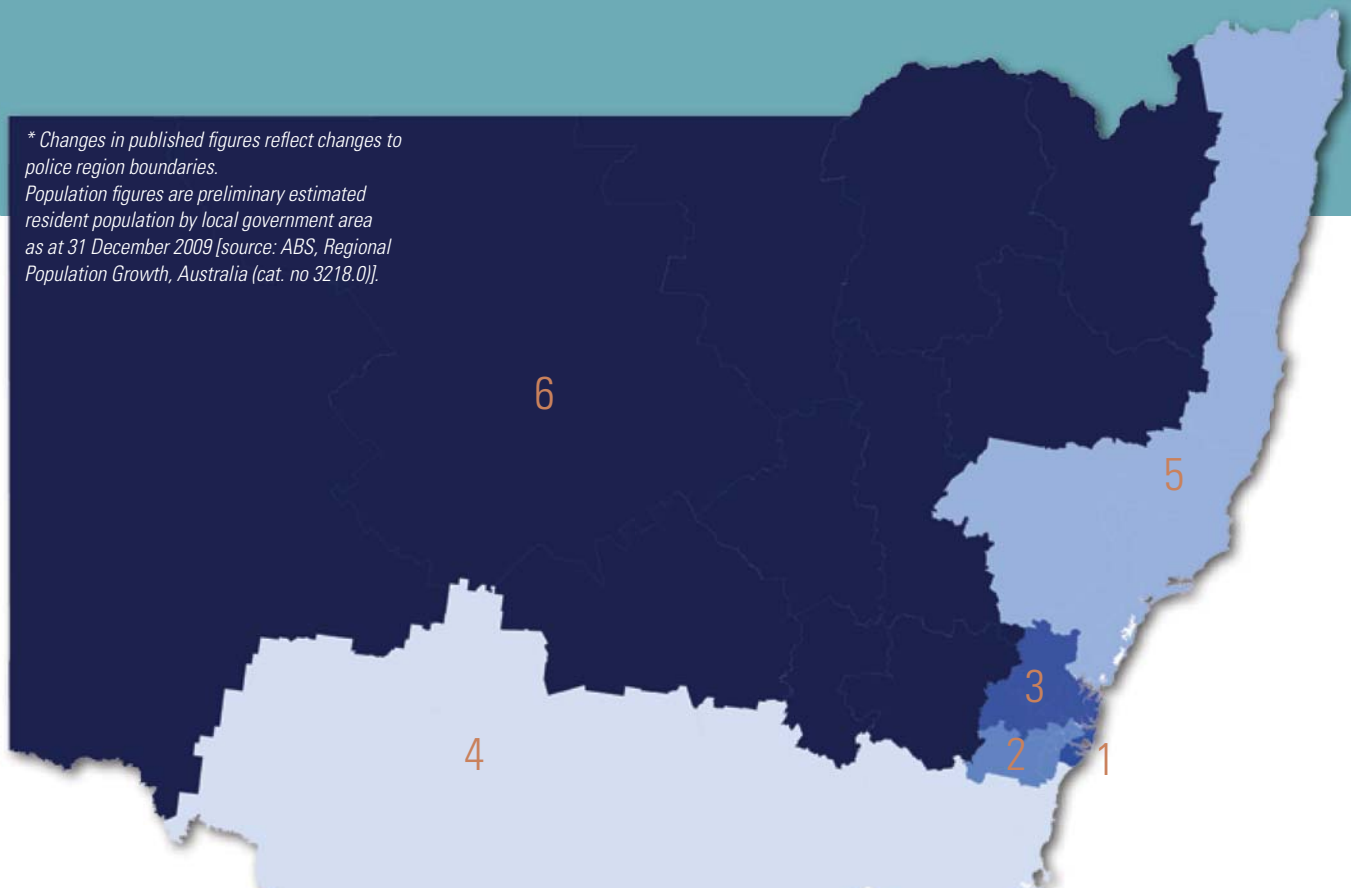
The NSW Police Force and, more broadly, the community benefits from our Volunteers in Policing (VIP) Program. This year the program celebrated its 15th anniversary.

Our VIPs have contributed more than 1.68 million hours in supporting police and the community since the inception of the program in 1995. There are 460 active VIPs assisting their local police at 77 locations across the state, in line with the commitment of the NSW State Plan to build stronger communities. As representatives of the local community, the knowledge and contacts they bring is a particularly important policing and customer service resource, and we thank our volunteers for their support.

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* Changes in published figures reflect changes to police region boundaries.
 Population figures are preliminary estimated resident population by local government area as at 31 December 2009 [source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, Australia (cat. no 3218.0)].



OUR POLICE REGIONS

1 CENTRAL METROPOLITAN REGION

Area in square kilometres	542.1 sq km
Usual residents*	1,079,872
Number of police officers	2,620
Number of administrative staff	190

4 SOUTHERN REGION

Area in square kilometres	199,700 sq km
Usual residents*	925,465
Number of police officers	1,621
Number of administrative staff	152

2 SOUTH WEST METROPOLITAN REGION

Area in square kilometres	3,445 sq km
Usual residents*	1,300,148
Number of police officers	2,201
Number of administrative staff	177

5 NORTHERN REGION

Area in square kilometres	70,050 sq km
Usual residents*	1,511,465
Number of police officers	2,259
Number of administrative staff	182

3 NORTH WEST METROPOLITAN REGION

Area in square kilometres	6,269 sq km
Usual residents*	1,808,441
Number of police officers	2,291
Number of administrative staff	196

6 WESTERN REGION

Area in square kilometres	520,600 sq km
Usual residents*	509,030
Number of police officers	1,183
Number of administrative staff	147

These figures do not include staff (both police and administrative) who are centrally managed but deployed throughout the regions in specialist and corporate roles. These staff assist police and the community by providing operational information to support investigations; radio communications; call centres; forensic services; complaint and employee management; air and sea policing; specialist surveillance; canine and mounted support; media and public relations; counter terrorism and major crime investigation; police prosecutions; technology support; occupational health and safety; injury management; education and training including leadership development; human resource support and asset management.