

## Communiqué 21 November 2019

Members were welcomed to the final SLED Advisory Council meeting for 2019.

**Cameron Smith, Director, Security Licensing and Enforcement Directorate (SLED)** opened the meeting and gave members a personnel update. He started by introducing Shalini Nataraj, a Senior Policy Officer with the NSW Police Force (NSWPF), who will be handling security industry-related matters and informed members Janelle Green had been appointed to the position of Assistant Director (Service Delivery).

Mr Smith gave members an update on proposed legislative amendments to the Security Industry Act 1997. He said the changes, which would include the creation of a class 1 subclass for Private Investigators, were expected to be made during 2019. As part of the changes, the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents legislation will be repealed, and NSW Fair Trading will take over the regulation of Commercial Agents.

**Lisa Stockley, Assistant Director (Industry Regulation)** gave an update on her team's recent activities.

- The Compliance and Enforcement team's Operation Westin, which addressed non-compliance within hospital security, has been finalised. The team is working with NSW Health to address the issues raised during the operation
- The team also recently deployed to Wollongong and Newcastle where they conducted 48 and 39 audits respectively
- SLED has been assisting the Terrorism Protection Unit with presentations on security licensing requirements at the NSWPF Crowded Places forums across the state
- The new training package is due to be implemented on 20 January 2020, although the Australian Skills Quality Authority has asked for an extension. SLED will present on the new training package at the Australian Security Industry Association (ASIAL) Industry Briefing next week
- The mandated Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) assessment is finalised and has been rolled out to approved training organisations for trial and validation. Positive responses have been received so far
- Industry consultation has raised concerns as to whether Certificate II Unit of Competency (UoC) for defensive techniques is sufficient for activities such as crowd control. Ms Stockley asked Council members to circulate a discussion email within their networks seeking feedback on whether the Certificate III defensive technique UoC should be a requirement for security officers in addition to the Certificate II qualification
- There will be changes to the conditions of approval for Approved Organisations, including the removal of minimum face-to-face training hours and delivery of training via online platforms and distance education permitted. SLED will focus regulatory efforts on the summative assessment process to ensure competency requirements are being achieved.

**Michelle Morgan, Assistant Director (Determinations)** gave an overview of the role of the Adjudication team and discussed the future recruitment of two Senior Adjudication Officers. She undertook to provide Council members with statistics showing the total number of security licences and a breakdown of the number of persons authorised to carry out each class 1 subclass. Applicants can now apply for security licences online, but most are still arriving by post. Ms Morgan said SLED is currently negotiating with Service NSW to post Photographic Advice letters to applicants twice a week instead of once to improve customer service.

Council members were invited to raise further items for discussion or clarification.

Kathy Pavlich, Security and Risk Management teacher, TAFE NSW asked whether an organisation without a master licence can invoice a client for security work provided by a contracted licensed security company. Mr Smith confirmed a business charging a client for security work must have a master licence and any concerns should be reported to SLED's Assessment team.

Tamara Bayly, Head of Compliance & Quality, SNP Security (Certis Group Company) asked whether social media advertising was captured under the legislation. Ms Stockley advised it is and advertisers must comply with the legislation.

Shane Brady, Manager, Strategic Security, Department of Premier and Cabinet (NSW) said he had received an enquiry about a security operative discriminating against individuals and potentially damaging the reputation of his employer. Mr Smith said the Adjudication team examines allegations of licensees not being “fit and proper” to continue to hold a licence and the details of the incident should be sent to SLED. He said SLED may issue a notice to the licensee asking them to show cause why their licence shouldn't be revoked.

John Fleming, General Manager, ASIAL mentioned he had seen on social media a South Australian company provided a bodyguard service for John Travolta in three states. Mr Smith said he was aware and had been in contact with the individual involved.

There being no further items for discussion, the meeting was closed. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2020.