

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN SLED

Deployments

Following on from the regional deployment to the Orange, Wellington and Dubbo areas in February 2018, the Compliance & Enforcement team returned to the Mudgee area for follow-ups with previously identified unlicensed security equipment providers.

Twelve businesses were audited, with educational compliance strategies being used for several of the businesses. Follow-up enquiries are ongoing for a number of other businesses (security equipment specialists and sellers).

Officers also assisted Mudgee licensing police with their investigation of a Master licensee and made a presentation to security providers at the Mudgee Liquor Accord.

Education programs

The Industry Regulation unit is currently undertaking educational efforts in relation to the industry's technical sector. This has included engaging with trade associations such as the Australia Wire Industry Association (professional association for security fencing) and educating users of technical security services such as the Real Estate Institute of NSW (in relation to licensing requirements for locksmiths) and government bodies such as Public Works Advisory NSW (in relation to prequalification schemes).

Investigations

There are 25 investigations currently being undertaken by the Compliance & Enforcement team and one investigation being undertaken by the Training Regulation team.

Legal Outcomes

5 February 2018 – Commissioner of Police successful in getting costs order against Mr Mahmoud Abughazaleh and Sydney Training Academy Pty Ltd (\$25,481.58).

Mr Abughazaleh held a Class 1AC2D licence and was the Nominated Person for the Master licence held by Sydney Training Academy Pty Ltd - a company of which he was the sole director and shareholder.

A SLED investigation revealed Sydney Training Academy Pty Ltd, in partnership with Peacemakers Security Pty Ltd (trading as Peacekeepers Security & Training Institute), was facilitating the provision of licences to New South Wales residents through the exploitation of mutual recognition legislation. This was done by assisting students first to obtain a Queensland security licence and then to obtain a NSW licence by way of registration under the mutual recognition principle thereby circumventing NSW's stringent licensing requirements.

Both licences were revoked primarily on the basis the holders were not fit and proper to hold a security licence and that it was not in the public interest that they hold such a licence.

Mr Abughazaleh and Sydney Training Academy Pty Ltd appealed to the NSW Civil & Administrative Tribunal, with the Tribunal upholding the decision on 6 December 2017.

The Commissioner subsequently filed an application for costs on the basis there were special circumstances as the proceedings lacked in substance and Mr Abughazaleh gave dishonest evidence to the Tribunal.

The full decision can be found at:

<https://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au/decision/5a739723e4b074a7c6e1bf25>.

Believe it or Not...

A person attended a Police Station to complain that when they went to Service NSW to renew their security licence, they were told it had been suspended and couldn't be renewed.

Upon checking the status of the licence, the police officer found it had been revoked and consequently confiscated the licence.

But it doesn't end there...

A further check revealed the person had a bench warrant for failing to appear on fraud matters at a Local Court so he was charged in relation to the warrant!