

The Bill largely adopts the COAG agreement of 3 July 2008 to harmonise certain provisions of the security industry across Australia. To this extent, the Bill is largely similar to amendments that are being made by all other states and territories to the security industry regulations. The key changes are to the probity requirements and license categories and the intent is that these are standardised across the country. This will also allow for easier portability of licenses from one jurisdiction to another.

The key changes to the probity requirements are that a person may be excluded from eligibility for a period of up to 10 if convicted of serious offences such as assault, theft, firearms, robbery. Where convictions are recorded but no penalty is imposed the exclusion may be for 5 years.

The license categories are to be: general guarding; crowd or venue control; guarding with a dog; guarding with a firearm; monitoring centre operations; body guarding, and training. The key change is that training providers who are not currently required to be licensed will now be required to do so.

The Bill will also provide for provisional and temporary licenses.

In addition there will be rules that allow for a licence to be refused where an applicant has "close association" with a person who supports or is involved in criminal activity.

When the changes commence, it will also be requirement that applicants provide the Commissioner of Police with finger and palm prints. The Commissioner may use finger prints and palm prints to screen licence applicants with criminal histories. These prints may be uses as evidence in any court proceeding.

The Bill will provide for the confidential provision of criminal intelligence to both the Director of Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading and to the Magistrate in determining license eligibility.

While training requirements are determined by the Director, the introduction of this new package across Australia is likely to result in an increase in the standards of training required for all applicants over the next two years.

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