

For
the
Future

Keeping
Our Police
Safe



South
Australian
Labor

Acknowledgment of country.

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country. We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their nations in South Australia, as well as those across Australia.

Foreword

Our police are our state's most important resource for preventing and tackling crime. They keep us safe, and we need to do everything we can to keep them safe.

While the number of crimes fell during the pandemic, violence and abuse directed at police officers continued to be a major concern.

Since the pandemic started in March 2020, over 660 people have been charged with assaulting police. These figures are shocking.

A Malinauskas Labor Government will never accept that having to tolerate this behaviour is simply part of a police officer's job.

We will do whatever we can to help police perform their job more effectively and safely, so that they can keep South Australians safe.



Peter Malinauskas MP
SA Labor Leader





Protective Vests to Protect All Frontline Police

Over past few years we have seen an increase in the use of knives and blades seen by victims in the commission of offences.

The safety and protection of our police must be a priority. We need to give them the tools to do their job.

Marshall Liberal Government's delays and indecision have meant our police have been left vulnerable.

This is despite the previous Labor Government allocating \$4 million in early 2018 to start the rollout of vests.

While the Marshall Liberal Government finally ordered the vests, there were not enough.

A Malinauskas Labor Government will provide \$4.5 million for an additional 1500 custom-made multi-purpose load bearing vests to protect all police and protective security officers while carrying out their duties.

The vests will offer significant resistance to sharp objects and bladed weapons along with protection against firearm threats.

Mandatory Blood Tests for those who spit or bite Police

Recently we have seen police officers coughed on, spat on and pushed. There is no excuse for this behaviour. But while living in a pandemic environment, these actions cause workers extreme levels of stress and anxiety.

A Malinauskas Labor Government will compel people to undergo a blood test if they spit or bite police officers and other emergency service workers.

Such actions already attract potentially stiff criminal penalties, but by extending the law to require a blood test can ensure fears of further contamination by these actions can be quickly answered.

Assaults against police need to be treated with the appropriate severity across the whole criminal justice system.

