

# STATE BUDGET

## 2023-24

**STEPHEN MULLIGHAN MP**  
TREASURER

**JOE SZAKACS MP**  
MINISTER FOR POLICE

### BUDGET BOOSTS FUNDING FOR SA POLICE

The 2023-24 State Budget provides a significant funding boost for South Australian police, with measures to accelerate recruitment and employ more Police Security Officers (PSOs).

The Malinauskas Government has announced \$81.8 million over four years to recruit an additional 189 sworn PSOs - allowing police officers to focus on front line, core policing duties.

The additional sworn PSOs, formerly known as Protective Security Officers, will perform some of the many roles currently undertaken by sworn police officers.

Specifically, establishment of the District Support Section within Police Security Services Branch allows SAPOL to deploy sworn PSOs across the four metropolitan custodial facilities, releasing 45 police officers to other duties.

A further \$12.2 million will accelerate recruitment and training with an aim to address existing vacancies within SA Police.

In the past year, additional courses have already been added at the SAPOL Academy and successfully doubled the number of cadet graduates.

This new investment in the 2023-24 State Budget provides support to further boost the number of police recruits graduating to more than 300 per year, and deliver over 900 new police cadets to the frontline over the next three years.

Additionally, the accelerated recruitment plan puts SAPOL on track to also train 75 sworn Police Security Officers locally each year over the same period.

The \$12.2 million will support a number of critical initiatives, such as:

- Increasing the number of police cadet courses and police security officer qualification programs delivered by the police academy
- Funding new marketing initiatives to promote policing as a fulfilling career in public service
- SAPOL will investigate the potential international recruitment to attract experienced police with three to five years' experience from overseas, including New Zealand and the United Kingdom, however the priority remains local recruitment

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- Partnering with the Department for Education and TAFE SA to develop a schools-based pathway to joining SAPOL

The accelerated recruitment package will bolster existing successful recruitment measures, such as the successful *Calling All* campaign.

Additionally, boosting SAPOL's operational capacity, \$1.9 million over four years has been allocated to upgrade and maintain interview rooms that are better suited to more vulnerable witnesses.

This funding commitment will ensure that victims and witnesses who are subject to an alleged child sexual offence and are mandated to be interviewed in a soft interview room will have the safest environment possible.

To meet operational demand and coordinate statewide policing operations, SAPOL will be provided with \$5 million in 2026-27 to commence the process to deliver a new communications centre. This site will accommodate both the Police Communications Centre and the State Emergency Centre which is a critical feature of the state's emergency management capability.

The new centre will ensure SAPOL can continue to respond and coordinate the response to emergencies, ensuring the long-term safety of the South Australian community while also meeting critical infrastructure requirements.

### Quotes attributable to Stephen Mullighan

*The Malinauskas Government recognises the critical role police officers play in ensuring our community is safe and boosting funding to fast-track recruitment will see more police on the front-line, sooner.*

### Quotes attributable to Joe Szakacs

*This investment in multiple facets of SAPOL's operations will strengthen our dedicated and hardworking police's ability to perform their duties.*

*Not only is our government investing significantly in bolstering both the way we find and the way we train new police officers, but we are investing in tools and skillsets to ensure operational demand is met.*

*There has never been a better time to join SAPOL with more training courses and opportunities than ever before.*

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