



The safety of the community is a top priority for the South Australian Government.

With several significant incidents involving knives taking place here and interstate, the Government is considering potential reform to our knife laws.

These reforms would help to:

- better target the possession of knives for unlawful purposes
- reduce knife crime
- keep the community safe.



What is the law in South Australia?

There are three categories of weapons in South Australia's criminal law.

Offensive weapons

A knife is an offensive weapon.

Offensive weapons also include rifles, guns, pistols, swords, clubs, bludgeons, truncheons or other offensive weapons.



Many items can be an offensive weapon if carried with the intention of hurting someone or carried in a threatening way – including screwdrivers, hammers, baseball bats and bicycle chains.



Related offences

- Carrying an offensive weapon without lawful excuse - **\$2,500 fine or 6 months imprisonment**
- Using or carrying an offensive weapon in a school or public place - **\$10,000 fine or 2 years imprisonment**
- Manufacturing, selling, distributing, supplying or dealing dangerous articles - **\$7,500 fine or 18 months imprisonment**
- Carrying an offensive weapon while in – or attempting to leave or enter – a licensed premises or the carpark of a licensed premises at night - **\$7,500 or 18 months imprisonment**

Dangerous articles

The only knife that has been declared a dangerous article is a gas injector device, which can include a WASP Injector Knife.

Prohibited weapons

Some knives are classified as prohibited weapons.



These include ballistic knives, butterfly knives, daggers, dirk or sgian dhu, fighting knives, flick knives, knife belts, push knives, star knives, throwing knives, trench knives, undetectable knives, and bayonets.

Related offences

- Manufacturing, selling, distributing, supplying, using or possessing a prohibited weapon - **\$20,000 fine or 2 years imprisonment**

Options for tackling knife crime

The Government is exploring options to strengthen South Australia's existing laws and help prevent and reduce knife-related crime.



Expanding police metal detector search powers.



Increasing the age for selling knives to 18 years.



Requiring safe storage of knives for sale and displaying prohibition notices.



Expanding the definition of 'school' to include more tertiary institutions and preschools.



Introducing a licencing or registration scheme for certain categories of knife.



Have your say

Visit www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/knife-crime for the discussion paper and more information.

You can also have your say by providing a written submission to LLPSubmissions@sa.gov.au by 25 August 2024.