

Theme: Police training**Street Cop Training winds up in the USA**

The hugely controversial private police training company, Street Cop Training (one of the largest in the United States) has filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy after facing a backlash from state police boards and the media for teaching unconstitutional and harassing policing tactics. The company delivered extreme racist, misogynistic and violent warrior-style training to police in at least 46 states before investigative reports and state investigations started to reveal the highly offensive nature of the training provided by multiple trainers, mostly former cops. States started to ban their police officers from attending the conferences, removed credit for attendance, and are now retraining the police officers that attended the conferences.

[Shirley LaVarco \(13 March 2024\) *The Appeal*](#)

[New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller \(6 December 2023\) *OSC Report*](#)

[Ryan Raiche \(17 March 2024\) *KSTP*](#)

[Tim McNicholas & Walter Smith Randolph \(20 February 2024\) *CBS New York*](#)

NSW police reject training recommendations by watchdog

New South Wales police have rejected four of 19 recommendations on the use of force made by the state's police watchdog, the NSW Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC). The police argued that there was already adequate guidance on the exercise of police powers and that police officers were required to justify the use of police powers. The LECC's recommendations were made after two officers interviewed a 14-year-old boy who had been injured during his arrest. This was despite the police being informed by the Aboriginal Legal Services, both verbally and in writing, that the boy wished to exercise his right to silence. The LECC stated that there was a question whether the arrest was lawful

and found that the NSW police had a ‘systemic problem’ of interviewing young people in custody in a way that contravened their right to silence. The LECC has also recently released several other reports criticising the force’s treatment of Aboriginal people.

[Tamsin Rose & Catie McLeod \(19 March 2024\) *The Guardian*](#)

Important review of research on police training in responding to violence

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has released a significant review of Australian and international research on police training to respond to family, domestic and sexual violence in the face of increasing reports of such violence. The study by Dr Christopher Dowling, Principal Research Analyst at the AIC, identifies a shift in focus for police training: ‘Poor understanding of legislation and basic procedures, a lack of awareness of services and referral processes, and a preference for mediational over enforcement responses appear to have given way to more advanced concerns such as recognising and investigating patterns of abuse and coercive control, trauma-informed practices with victims, and identifying primary aggressors.’

[Christopher Dowling \(18 April 2024\) *AIC*](#)

Ten thousand more tasers announced for Victoria

The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, Human Rights Law Centre, the Police Accountability Project and Australian Lawyers Alliance have written to the Victorian Attorney-General expressing concern over the announcement that ten thousand more police officers and protective services officers (PSOs) in Victoria will be issued with Tasers. They pointed to past deaths from Tasers; the disproportionate use against Tasers on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; and the question of whether PSOs receiving weapons that can lead to the use of lethal force is appropriate. The coalition of Victorian legal and community services groups called instead for the money for Tasers to instead be invested in crime prevention, police de-escalation training and mental health treatment.

[Police Accountability Project \(19 February 2024\)](#)