



Critical Incident Policy Statement

The NSW Police Force acknowledges the actions of officers in the execution of their duty can, in some circumstances, result in death or serious injury to a person. Incidents of this nature are often subject to a heightened level of public interest and scrutiny. These incidents are deemed to be **critical incidents** by the NSW Police Force.

The NSW Police Force is committed to managing and investigating all critical incidents in an effective, transparent and accountable manner. Such investigations are most appropriately conducted independently. Accountability for the probity and integrity of the investigation is imposed at senior levels of the NSW Police Force. In doing so, the community, members of the NSW Police Force and their families can be assured that all critical incidents are handled professionally and that decisions made and processes used are appropriate and reasonable.

Our commitment to the investigation and management of critical incidents is to ensure that the NSW Police Force:

- meets the community's expectations that all critical incidents will be investigated in an effective, accountable and transparent manner
- provide reassurance that any wrongful conduct by any NSW Police Force employee will be identified and dealt with
- conduct an independent review of the investigation
- impose robust and transparent investigative protocols for the investigation of these incidents
- impose accountability for the investigation of critical incidents at senior levels of the NSW Police Force
- consider and address welfare of employees involved in these incidents
- consider improvements to policy and procedures
- provide comprehensive critical incident investigative procedures in the NSW Police Force *Critical Incident Guidelines*.

The following principles underpin this policy:

- accountability
- transparency
- professionalism and ethical conduct
- risk assessment and risk management
- record keeping, and
- evaluation and review.

A.P Scipione APM
Commissioner
NSW Police Force