



Drug Detection Dogs

NSW Police Force: Drug Dog Standard Operating Procedures:

- Police may use drug dogs **without a warrant** on persons leaving or entering a place: being used for the consumption of liquor sold at the premises (but not a place that is primarily used as a restaurant) sporting event, concert or artistic performance, dance party, parade or other entertainment,
- Police may use drug dogs **without a warrant** on persons leaving or entering **public transport** or station, platform or stopping place on prescribed route.
- Warrant for use of DDD does not give police the power to place a DDD inside a private **motor vehicle** in a public place. The area within a motor vehicle is not a public place.
- Police **must obtain a warrant** to use drug dogs in all other 'open public areas'.
- Indication given by a DDD does not on its own provide police with the power to search, nor does it suffice for an officer to 'suspect' on **reasonable grounds** possession of a prohibited drug.
- If search conducted must be mindful to preserving a **person's dignity** by removing them from areas which are in the public view.
- Dog handler must take all reasonable precautions to **prevent the DD touching** the person and keep DD under control.
- A person should be **cautioned** the person prior to any questions being asked and upon initiate interaction with DDD.
- When searching, police are reminded to make all attempts to ensure the person's **privacy** is maintained and any possible embarrassment to a person being searched is limited.
- Police are **not to obtain personal identification** details during a search of a person's wallet or other items by using personal identification (such as drivers licence), unless they have explicit and informed consent to do so.
- If nothing found, person under **no obligation** to provide their details and police have no general power to detain a person.
- If nothing found, police should immediately inform the person they are **free to leave**.
- During DDD operation police often locate prescription medication. There is no **legal requirement for a person to carry evidence that a prescription drug** in their possession was lawfully obtained or supplied.