

Australia New Zealand Police Pursuit Principles

PURPOSE:

These Principles provide guidance for jurisdictions in the development and application of policies and procedures, and promote cross-jurisdictional co-operation for continuous improvement in the area of police pursuits.

DEFINITION:

A pursuit is police driving undertaken in circumstances where for whatever reason, the driver of the vehicle being intercepted does not stop when called upon to do so.

KEY STATEMENT:

The authority for police to intercept vehicles and pursue drivers who fail to stop is derived from law. The safety of police and the community is paramount.

Key Principles	Policy	Training	Risk Assessment	Accountability
Organisational Responsibility	Police organisations should ensure that policies and procedures for initiating, undertaking and terminating pursuits are developed, implemented, communicated, managed and reviewed.	Police organisations should provide police with skills and knowledge to enable them to identify, respond to and manage the risks associated with police pursuits.	Police organisations should ensure that a continuous assessment of risk is undertaken and communicated throughout pursuits. Police debrief pursuits to assess compliance with agency policies and procedures as well as the effectiveness of the various police roles involved.	Police organisations should report, record, monitor, and evaluate police pursuits to continuously improve community and members' safety, and ensure police are adhering to organisational policies and procedures.
Control and Supervision Responsibility	Pursuit controllers and supervisors are aware of and adhere to their organisation's pursuit policies and procedures.	Pursuit controllers and supervisors are trained and equipped by their police organisation to control and supervise a police pursuit.	Pursuit controllers and supervisors continually assess risk through the information provided to them and take action as appropriate which may include direction to terminate the pursuit.	Pursuit controllers and supervisors are accountable for their actions in controlling and supervising a police pursuit.
Practitioner Responsibility	Individual police practitioners are aware of and adhere to their organisation's pursuit policies and procedures.	Individual police practitioners should not undertake a pursuit unless they have been trained and equipped by their organisation to respond to and manage the risks associated with a police pursuit.	Individual police practitioners should undertake a continuous assessment of risk throughout a pursuit. Where there is unacceptable risk, the pursuit should be terminated.	Individual police practitioners are accountable and responsible for their actions in pursuing fleeing drivers.

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