

Step-by-Step Guide

How to Get a Close Protection (Bodyguard) Licence in Australia by State

This guide provides a clear, state-by-state overview of the process for obtaining a Close Protection (bodyguard) security licence in Australia.

General Requirements for Close Protection Licensing

To work as a close protection officer (bodyguard) in Australia, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Pass a criminal history check
- Complete the required training (see below)
- Provide 100 points of identification
- Submit passport-sized photographs and character references
- Pay all required fees
- Undergo fingerprinting or interviews (in some states)

Training Requirements

- Certificate II in Security Operations (CPP20218):
This is the entry-level qualification required for all security work.
- Certificate III in Close Protection Operations (CPP31418): This specialist qualification is mandatory for close protection roles in most states. Some states may refer to it as “bodyguard” or “close personal protection” training.

Important Notes

- Complete both Certificate II and Certificate III in Close Protection Operations.
- Then apply for a security licence with a close protection/bodyguard endorsement in your state.
- Endorsements: You must specifically apply for the “bodyguard” or “close protection” function/endorsement on your security licence.
- Firearms: If you intend to work armed, additional training and licensing are required.
- Renewals: Ongoing professional development or refresher training may be required for licence renewal.
- Subsidies: Some states offer subsidised training for eligible applicants.

State-by-State Process

| State/Territory | Steps to Obtain Close Protection Licence |
|-------------------------|--|
| Victoria (VIC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Cert II & Cert III • Apply for security licence with “Bodyguard” activity • Undergo fingerprinting • Wait for approval |
| New South Wales (NSW) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Cert II & Cert III • Apply for “Bodyguard” subclass via Service NSW • Attend fingerprinting • Wait for approval |
| Queensland (QLD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Cert II & Cert III • Apply for security licence with “Bodyguard” endorsement in person • Wait for approval |
| Western Australia (WA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Cert II & Cert III • Apply for security licence with “Bodyguard” endorsement in person • Wait for approval |
| South Australia (SA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Cert II & Cert III • Apply for security licence with “Bodyguard” endorsement • Wait for approval |
| Tasmania (TAS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Cert II & Cert III • Apply for security licence with “Bodyguard” function • Wait for approval |
| ACT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Cert II & Cert III • Apply for security licence with “Bodyguard” endorsement • Wait for approval |
| Northern Territory (NT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Cert II & Cert III • Apply for security licence with “Bodyguard” endorsement • Wait for approval |

Summary:

To become a licensed Close Protection Officer (bodyguard) in Australia, you must complete both Certificate II and Certificate III in Close Protection Operations, then apply for a security licence with a close protection/bodyguard endorsement in your state. We recommend all defense and law enforcement personnel to contact the College for Law Enforcement and Training (CLET) to discuss a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) application. Visit clet.edu.au/contact-us/ for more information.

Always check your state or territory regulator’s website for the most up-to-date requirements and application forms.