

# News Release Deputy Premier John Rau

Attorney General  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Industrial Relations  
Minister for Business Services and Consumers



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## Knife laws to prevent sales to minors

Laws that aim to reduce knife crime in South Australia through preventing the sale of knives to young people will come into effect next week.

Attorney General John Rau said that changes to the *Summary Offences Act* will ensure that retailers will no longer be able to sell knives to persons under the age of 16.

“We have all seen the senseless damage caused by idiots wielding knives, which in some tragic cases has cost lives,” Mr Rau said.

“The Government believes that it should be as difficult as possible for a person under 16 to obtain a knife, or any weapon and these laws bring about this change.

“We have also introduced measures to stop the glorification of knives through ill-considered marketing techniques which promote knives as weapons.

“Most retailers are responsible and do the right thing - it will be rogue retailers that will face serious penalties if they sell a knife to a person under 16.”

The new laws which come into effect on February 3 will create two new offences to restrict the sale and marketing of knives:

- A person who sells a knife to a minor under the age of 16 years is guilty of an offence and subject to a maximum penalty of \$20,000 or 2 years imprisonment. Razor blades permanently enclosed in a cartridge and plastic or wooden take-away knives are exempt from the sale offence.
- Unlawfully marketing a knife in a way that indicates or suggests that the knife is suitable for combat or is otherwise likely to stimulate or encourage violent behaviour will carry a maximum penalty of \$20,000 or 2 years imprisonment.

Currently, it is an offence to sell a prohibited knife to any person, including those under 18. There are 13 categories of knives that are classified as prohibited weapons, including a dagger, a flick knife, a butterfly knife, a ballistic knife and a throwing knife.

Mr Rau said the changes compliment further work being done to keep the city streets safer from violence.

“Late last year, SAPOL were given the powers and tools to conduct random weapon searches outside licensed venues. Previously they required grounds to suspect someone was carrying a weapon in order to conduct a search.

“We are also in the process of finalising a Late Night Code of Practice for licensed venues that open after 2am – these changes are a response to alcohol fuelled violence that we see too often in the city.”

Retailers who sell knives and are seeking more information about the law changes may contact the Attorney General’s Department on 8207 1771 or visit [www.agd.sa.gov.au](http://www.agd.sa.gov.au)