

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

Active Armed Offender: An armed offender who is actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people, and who demonstrated their intention to continue to do so while having access to additional potential victims.

Concealment: Prevents a person from being seen or observed, but does not provide protection from physical harm.

Cover: Concealment that provides physical protection from harm.

Crowded Places: Crowded places are locations or environments which are easily accessible by large numbers of people on a predictable basis. Crowded places include, but are not limited to, sports stadia, transport hubs, shopping centres, pubs, clubs, places of worship, tourist attractions, movie theatres, and civic spaces. Crowded places do not have to be buildings and can include open spaces such as parks and pedestrian malls.

A crowded place will not necessarily be crowded at all times: crowd densities may vary between day and night, by season, and may be temporary, as in the case of sporting events, open air festivals, or one-off events.

Emergency Management: The plans, structures and arrangements that are established to bring together government agencies, voluntary groups and private organisations in a coordinated way to deal with emergency needs, including prevention, response and recovery.

Evacuation: The process of relocating people from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas to safer areas. The purpose of an evacuation is to use distance to separate people from the danger created by the emergency.

Police First Responder: A police officer who provides the initial policing response to a call for police assistance.

Improvised weapon: An object that is not designed to be a weapon, but can be used as a means to kill or inflict serious injury.

Mitigation: Measures taken before, during, or after an event to decrease or eliminate its impact on people, property or a location.

Prohibited weapon: A weapon that is prohibited or restricted by law in relation to its manufacture, dealing, possession, or use.

Rapid deployment: The swift and immediate deployment of police and other emergency services personnel to an ongoing situation where delayed deployment could result in death or serious injury.

Situational awareness: The ability to quickly recognise and interpret an event, make sound decisions based on those interpretations, and establish early, effective and continuous lines of communication between the incident site and the controlling agency in order to provide ongoing accurate information about the situation to responders.

Terrorist act: An act or threat committed with the intention of advancing a political, ideological or religious cause, and which is intended to coerce or intimidate an Australian government, a foreign government, or sections of the public, which causes serious physical harm or death to a person, endangers a person's life, causes serious damage to property, creates a serious risk to the health and safety of the public, or seriously interferes with, seriously disrupts, or destroys, an electronic system².

² Commonwealth Criminal Code Act No.12 of 1995