

The ability of Australian law enforcement authorities to eliminate gun-related violence in the community.

- a. the estimated number, distribution and lethality of illegal guns, including both outlawed and stolen guns, in Australia;

Your question should not be as much as 'how many', rather the question should be 'how many are used in a crime after being stolen?' Should a stolen firearm be disposed of in a river, then it is not actually an issue. The sub question should be 'how many as a percentage of total over all firearms are stolen?' Very few. Perhaps asking the various police departments across the state about how many firearms they lose and check that as a percentage may be another good avenue of enquiry.

- b. the operation and consequences of the illicit firearms trade, including both outlawed and stolen guns within Australia;

Good question. What I expect the FEDERAL government to be doing is examining our porous borders and trying to work out how to better secure it. It is my opinion that not nearly enough shipping containers are inspected by Customs. As most seizures are made due to either intel or random luck, increasing the number of searches (100% should be the target) will result in more seizures. A better look at AusPost, another federally controlled body, would also help.

- c. the adequacy of current laws and resourcing to enable law enforcement authorities to respond to technological advances in gun technology, including firearms made from parts which have been imported separately or covertly to avoid detection, and firearms made with the use of 3D printers;

You do not need a 3D printer to make a firearm. OMG make them themselves from lathes and milling machines. In fact, a Sydney based jeweller was making machine pistols without a 3D printer. Making firearms without an appropriate license is already illegal.

- d. the extent to which the number and types of guns stolen each year in Australia increase the risk posed to the safety of police and the community, including the proportion of gun-related crime involving legal firearms which are illegally held;

You cannot have a legal firearm that is illegally held. If it is illegally held it is an illegal firearms. This question makes me wonder if the answers have been decided.

- e. the effect banning semi-automatic handguns would have on the number of illegally held firearms in Australia;

Again, you need to ask how many semi automatic handguns are stolen each year and how many end up being used in crime.

- f. stricter storage requirements and the use of electronic alarm systems for guns stored in homes;

Storage requirements are a contentious subject. If a criminal wants anything he will get it. A safe can be stolen even if it is in excess of 150 kilos. An alarm will not stop this, it will just make them hurry up. There would want to be indisputable proof that storage is an issue rather than just assuming it is.

- g. the extent to which there exist anomalies in federal, state and territory laws regarding the ownership, sale, storage and transit across state boundaries of legal firearms, and how these laws relate to one another; and

There was a National Firearms Agreement made (forced) upon the states in 1996. That was completely immoral and most likely unconstitutional. The Federal government has NO BUSINESS involving itself in state matters.

- h. any related matters.

For too long the law abiding have been made a scapegoat for inefficient, ineffective and unfair legislation purporting to be passed in the name of 'public safety'. This Committees inquiry and report seems to be a step in removing another state power on the pretence that the states are unable to do it. Unfortunately the federal governments answer seems to be centralising all those things that don't work. It actually smells much like a step towards a central government.

To sum up my submissions, catching criminals will work better than punishing the innocent. The criminals already do not obey laws as is their nature.