

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Program: 1.2 AGD Operating Expenses - National Security and Criminal Justice

Question No. AE17-146

Senator Pratt, Louise asked the following question at the hearing on 24 March 2017:

1. As part of the National Firearms Agreement update, you set up a 'Industry Reference Group' to advise on the update.

a) What was the process for appointment to this Reference Group?

b) Who decided who would be appointed?

2. A letter signed by the former NSW DPP, founder of the Allanah and Madeline Foundation and the head of the Rape and Domestic Violence Centre criticises the establishment of this Group for giving the gun lobby unwarranted input into our gun laws. One of the seven invited members of the Reference Group is the Shooting Industry Foundation Australia. An extract from the AEC website proves that this company donated \$46,834 to the Liberals and Nationals in 2015-16.

One of their directors is Robert Nioa, the importer of the Adler, someone who was set to make thousands of dollars from the decision of COAG.

a) Was the Department aware of this link?

b) Did the Department recommend Shooting Industry Foundation Australia be invited to advise on the updated Firearms Agreement? Did the Department recommend the Shooting Industry Foundation Australia be on the Reference Group?

c) Was the Department aware that the Reference Group was composed of people and organisations who would profit from the importation of dangerous weapons?

d) Was the Department aware that this group was a significant donor to the Liberal and National parties?

e) What advice did the Industry Reference Group provide to the Department on the Adler?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. a) The Minister for Justice appointed the members of the Firearms Industry Reference Group.

b) See 1(a).

2. a) The department is aware that Robert Nioa legally imports Adler shotguns and served on the previous government's Commonwealth Firearms Advisory Council

b) See 1(a)

c) The department is aware that the sale and importation of firearms is heavily regulated to protect the community.

d) No. See 2(c)

e) The advice provided to the Minister by the Firearms Industry Reference Group is not publicly available.