

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. AE17/148

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

1. Does the AGD hold information about the volume and type of firearms being imported into Australia?
2. How many Adler lever-action shotguns does the Department estimate are in Australia?
3. And, of these how many have a capacity of five rounds or more?
4. How many Adler lever-action shotguns does the Department believe are modified?
5. How many Adler lever-action shotguns does the Department believe are now on the illicit market?
6. What steps is the Government taking that the Department is aware of to get any Adler lever-action shotguns of five rounds or more which were imported by people who do not have a Category D licence?
7. What steps has the Department taken to prepare for a firearms amnesty?
8. How many guns does the Department estimate an amnesty will take off the legal and illicit firearms markets?
9. How much funding has been allocated to a gun amnesty?

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

1. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection is responsible for recording the importation of firearms.
2. This information would be held by state and territory governments.
3. See answer 2.
4. State and territory authorities are responsible for regulating the modification of firearms.
5. The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission conservatively estimates that there are 260,000 firearms (250,000 longarms and 10,000 handguns) in the domestic illicit market. The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission has not provided further breakdown of these figures by firearm type.
6. The licensing of firearm owners and the registration of firearms is a matter for the states and territories.
7. The department is managing the public information campaign that will support the amnesty.
8. The department has not made an estimate.
9. The department is unable to answer as the cost of the amnesty is spread between the Commonwealth, states and territories.