

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/118) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Please give detail on the numbers of weapons seizures by customs officials for the year to date.

Answer:

From 1 January 2014 to 30 November 2014, 46,663 non-firearm weapons were seized:

Weapons category	Quantity
Bladed weapons ¹	21,742
Martial arts and sporting weapons ²	10,603
Laser pointers	11,292
Law enforcement weapons and equipment ³	2,050
Anti-personnel sprays and chemicals ⁴	683
Items of warfare ⁵	293
Total	46,663

From 1 January 2014 to 30 November 2014, 6,478 firearms and related goods were seized:

Firearm category	Quantity
Firearms ⁶	173
Firearm parts, magazines and accessories	765
Air firearms ⁷	1,764
Air firearm parts, magazines and accessories	519
Imitation firearms	3,248
Total	6,478 ⁸

Seizure statistics are not an accurate indication of whether or not a particular importation was unlawful. Seized goods may subsequently be released to importers where all import requirements are met.

¹ Bladed weapons comprise daggers, ballistic knives and their parts, automatic knives and their parts, single handed opening knives and their parts, concealed knives, blades and spikes, star knives, sheath knives and their parts, push knives, trench knives and their parts, throwing blades, knives and axes, non-metallic and non-ceramic knives, blades and spikes, and butterfly knives and their parts.

² Martial arts and sporting weapons comprise hand held battery operated gas or liquid devices, blow-pipes and darts, nunchakus, crossbows and their parts, knuckledusters, gloves with protrusions, hunting slings and their parts, hand and foot claws, weighted gloves, shark darts and their parts, dart projectors and their parts, maces and flails.

³ Law enforcement weapons and equipment comprise electric shock weapons and their parts, acoustic anti-personnel devices, body armour and extendable batons and their parts.

⁴ Anti-personnel sprays and chemicals also included grenades and canisters for use with anti-personnel sprays and chemicals.

⁵ Items of warfare include items such as inert grenades, bombs, projectiles and parts and accessories for such items.

⁶ Firearms comprise of any device that is designed or adapted to discharge a projectile by means of an explosive charge, and include blank fire firearms, powerheads and deactivated firearms.

⁷ Air firearms comprise of any device that is designed or adapted to discharge a projectile by means of compressed air and include soft air (bb) guns and paintball markers.

⁸ Ammunition and components of ammunition for firearms and air firearms are excluded from this figure.