

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 75**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 13 February 2007:**

- a) Please provide the make and model of the weapon that has been selected for issue to customs officers.
- b) Is there a target number of officers that are intended to be armed?
  - i) If so, what is this target?
  - ii) How many officers have so far been armed?
  - iii) When is the target intended to be reached?
- c) How many officers have failed the psychometric test for handling firearms?
- d) Have any officers who have failed the psychometric test for handling firearms since been issued with firearms?
  - i) If so, how many and why were they issued with firearms after failing the test?
- e) Please advise whether issue or eligibility to handle firearms is tied to a specific classification?
  - i) If so, specify.
  - ii) If not, why not?

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

- a) Glock Model 17.
- b)
  - i) The 2006/07 Budget provided funding to train a further 600 officers in addition to officers employed in the National Marine Unit and the Maritime Patrol and Response Unit.
  - ii) As at 8 March 2007, 436 officers have been trained and authorised to carry arms, which includes 160 from the recent Budget funding.
  - iii) 30 June 2008.
- c) 8 officers have been found unsuitable for Operational Safety Training based upon psychometric assessment processes.
- d) Officers found unsuitable for Operational Safety Training are not issued with firearms.
  - i) Not applicable.
- e) The requirement for carriage of firearms is attached to designated positions.
  - i) Positions are designated based upon work function; all identified positions currently reside within the Enforcement & Investigations Division.
  - ii) Not applicable.