

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14-160)

Senator Carr (written) asked:

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

Answer:

From 7 September 2013 to 25 February 2014, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service has seized 25,725 non-firearm weapons:

Weapons category	Quantity
Bladed weapons ¹	11,069
Martial arts and sporting weapons ²	7,313
Laser pointers	5,644
Law enforcement weapons and equipment ³	953
Anti-personnel sprays and chemicals ⁴	604
Items of warfare ⁵	142
Total	25,725

From 7 September 2013 to 25 February 2014, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service has seized 3,609 firearms and related goods:

Firearm category	Quantity
Firearms ⁶	179
Firearm parts, magazines and accessories	308
Air firearms ⁷	1977
Air firearm parts, magazines and accessories	429
Imitation firearms	716
Total	3,609 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 on presentation of a valid import permit.

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 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, including blank fire firearms.

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

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