

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

**Output 2.1**

**Question No. 48**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 23 May 2007:**

National Handgun Buyback Scheme

- (a) When does the scheme terminate?
- (b) How much money was originally allocated?
- (c) How much has been expended to date?
- (d) How much money has been provided but not expended?
- (e) How much further money is still expected to be expended?
- (f) How much money that has been provided is it anticipated will not have been expended upon the termination of the scheme?
  - (i) How will that be dispersed?
  - (ii) When is that expected to occur?
- (g) When will the final auditing certificates be completed?
  - (i) When will that information become public?

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

- (a) The period within which claims for compensation could be made by handgun owners and dealers closed on the following dates:

New South Wales	30 June 2004
Victoria	31 March 2004
Queensland	30 June 2004
Western Australia	30 June 2004
South Australia	31 March 2004
Tasmania	31 January 2004
Northern Territory	31 January 2004
Australian Capital Territory	27 February 2004

Some claims for reimbursement to the States and Territories by the Australian Government for the costs of compensation paid, and administration costs, have not yet been finalised. The Australian Government is waiting for some States and Territories to provide supporting documentation before finalising State and Territory reimbursement claims.

- (b) The National Handgun Buyback was initially funded from \$15 million remaining from the 1996 Firearms Buyback; with all remaining payments shared between the Australian Government and the States and Territories on a two-thirds/one-third basis.
- (c) To date, the Australian Government has spent approximately \$92 million. The States and Territories have spent a further \$24 million in compensation payments. State and Territory administration costs are still being assessed.
- (d) Funding is made available as required. There are no funds provided which have not been expended.
- (e) It is not possible to stipulate how much money will be required until all claims for administrative costs from the States and Territories and the eligibility of claims under the Compensation for Unviable Business component of the Scheme have been finalised.
- (f) See response to (d).
- (g) The States/Territories are required to provide audited information to the Australian Government. It is expected the information will be provided this financial year.
- (i) The completion of the National Handgun Buyback scheme will be made public in the Attorney-General's Department Annual Report.