

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

Question No. 9

Senator Wright asked the following questions at the hearing on 16 October 2012:

Senator WRIGHT: Of those 10,000 illegal hand guns, do you have any idea how many of those are thought to be semi-automatic?

Mr Lawler: I will have to take that on notice in relation to semi-automatic hand guns.

Senator WRIGHT: I assume that semi-automatic hand guns are the weapons that were likely to be involved in, say, this year's spate of shootings in Sydney, which the community is understandably concerned about.

Mr Lawler: I do not know that that is altogether right. Certainly, a combination of hand guns have, I understand, been used. We will have to see if we have data that breaks those down. I do not know whether the assessment specifically went to that point, or whether we have done the work to go through the multitude of records to try to make assessments about that. I am not at all sure that the data will be available.

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

1. ACC data sources indicate approximately 6,500 of the estimated 10,000 handguns in the illicit market are semi-automatic.
2. This data is not held by the ACC and may be subject to ongoing investigations by state police. NSW Police are therefore better placed to answer this question.