

# **NATIONAL FIREARMS AMNESTY 2017 REPORT**

NATIONAL FIREARMS AND WEAPONS POLICY WORKING GROUP  
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	Page 3
<b>Outcomes</b>	Page 6
<i>Table 1 – Total number of items by category</i>	Page 6
<i>Table 2 – Total number of firearms by drop-off point</i>	Page 6
<i>Table 3 – Total number of firearms by reason</i>	Page 7
<i>Table 4 – Total number of firearms by stolen and missing items</i>	Page 7
<i>Table 5 – Total number of firearms by action type</i>	Page 8
<i>Table 6 – Total number of firearms by description</i>	Page 8
<i>Table 7 – Total number of parts and accessories by type</i>	Page 9
<i>Table 8 – Total ammunition</i>	Page 9
<b>Items of Interest</b>	Page 10
<b>Voluntary Survey Results</b>	Page 14
<i>Table 9 – Reason for surrender</i>	Page 14
<i>Table 10 – Source of firearm</i>	Page 15
<i>Table 11 – Reason not previously surrendered</i>	Page 15
<i>Table 12 – Length of time possessed</i>	Page 16
<i>Table 13 – Participation rates</i>	Page 16
<i>Table 14 – How people heard about the Amnesty</i>	Page 17
<b>Conclusion</b>	Page 18
<b>Attachment A – Jurisdiction-specific Amnesty Arrangements</b>	Page 19
<b>Attachment B – Primary Advertisement</b>	Page 21
<b>Attachment C – Voluntary Survey</b>	Page 22

## **INTRODUCTION**

In January 2015, the Martin Place Siege Joint Commonwealth – New South Wales Review (the Review) was released. The Review was drafted in response to an incident on 15 December 2014, in which Man Haron Monis entered the Lindt Café in Martin Place, Sydney, and took customers and staff hostage with an illegally obtained shotgun. The siege resulted in the deaths of three people: two hostages, and Monis.

The Review contained 17 recommendations in total, with four relating specifically to firearms. Recommendation 9 stated ‘The Commonwealth and the States and Territories should give further consideration to measures to deal with illegal firearms.’ In response to the recommendation, at the October 2016 meeting of the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council ministers from each jurisdiction approved a nationwide firearms amnesty.

Ministers agreed states and territories would bear the administrative and operational expenses associated with an amnesty, while the Commonwealth would fund an accompanying public information campaign. Ministers also agreed the amnesty would run in mid-2017.

### **Aim of the National Firearms Amnesty**

The National Firearms Amnesty 2017 ran for three months, from 1 July to 30 September 2017. The Amnesty was intended to improve public safety by reducing the number of unregistered firearms and firearm-related articles in Australian communities. The Amnesty sought to achieve this by allowing people to hand in unregistered firearms and firearm-related articles without fear of prosecution. People were also able to hand in registered firearms and firearm-related articles they no longer needed.

### **Australia’s illicit firearms market**

The illicit firearms market in Australia is generally considered to comprise two distinct markets: the grey market and the black market<sup>1</sup>. Grey market firearms are those that should have been handed in or registered following major firearms reforms in 1996, but were not. Black market firearms are owned by people who use illicit firearms for criminal purposes, such as drive-by shootings. Firearms can be diverted to the black market by various means, such as illegal importation, illegal manufacture, and theft from licensed firearms owners.

Although grey market firearms are not primarily held by people with criminal intent, these firearms can and do end up in the possession of people who use them for criminal purposes. For example, the shotgun used by Monis during the Martin Place Siege was a grey market firearm. Lost or stolen grey market firearms are less likely to be reported to authorities, as their owners may fear prosecution for having been in possession of an unregistered firearm. Underreporting further complicates the ability of law enforcement and intelligence agencies to make judgements about the size and nature of the illicit firearms market.

The Amnesty was primarily aimed at reducing the number of unregistered firearms in the grey market. It was not anticipated that large numbers of black market firearms would be handed in. At the time of the Amnesty, all Australian governments were pursuing other initiatives to address firearm-related crimes and threats related to black market firearms.

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of the Amnesty, the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission estimated there were more than 260,000 firearms in Australia’s illicit firearms market.

## **Operation of the National Firearms Amnesty**

The Amnesty model was designed to be adapted to individual state and territory requirements. The model therefore comprised core components, which were reflected in all state and territory amnesty arrangements, as well as flexible components, which were adopted and adapted where appropriate. The model ensured national consistency across core Amnesty elements, while allowing flexibility for states and territories to implement their own jurisdiction-specific frameworks.

The Amnesty included options for people to register items, sell items (to a licensed firearms dealer), or have items destroyed. Most options were available in all states and territories, though approaches differed. Further detail is provided at [Attachment A](#). The Amnesty did not provide automatic approval of applications where a person wished to register items. Registration and licence applications were subject to standard practices and legislative requirements, such as an ability to establish a genuine reason or meet the test of being a fit and proper person.

The items subject to Amnesty arrangements generally comprised: firearms, their parts and accessories (such as frames, receivers, barrels, trigger mechanisms, magazines and sound suppressors) and ammunition. Some states and territories accepted a broader range of prohibited or restricted items, for example crossbows and knuckledusters. There was no limit to the number of items a person could hand in.

Broadly, anyone was able to participate in the Amnesty. A very small number of exceptions applied in some jurisdictions, for example where a person was subject to a relevant prohibition (such as a Firearm Prohibition Order).

The Amnesty provided protection from prosecution where a person was in possession of an unregistered firearm for the purpose of handing it in under state and territory Amnesty arrangements. For example, if a person was stopped by police on the way to a pre-arranged appointment to hand in an unregistered firearm, they would not be prosecuted for possessing that firearm. The Amnesty did not provide protection from prosecution where a person was in possession of an unregistered firearm for any reason other than handing it in under state and territory Amnesty arrangements. For example, if during an unrelated search police discovered an unregistered firearm in a person's home, that person could be prosecuted for possessing that firearm.

Every state and territory approved and arranged its own Amnesty drop-off points. Drop-off points included police stations, mobile stations and licensed firearms dealers, though arrangements differed between jurisdictions. Further detail is provided at [Attachment A](#).

### **The public information campaign**

The Commonwealth funded and managed a public information campaign to promote the Amnesty. The campaign included three main elements: paid advertising, community outreach (conducted by Crime Stoppers Australia), and public relations activities. Images and key messages for campaign materials were informed by market research and developed by a contracted creative agency. The primary advertisement used during the Amnesty is at [Attachment B](#).

Paid advertising comprised press, digital and social media advertising. Press advertising was primarily run in regional, rural and community press outlets, though national and metro papers with strong regional readership were also targeted. Press advertising included Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) elements. Digital advertising ran in a range of formats and sizes, and was geo-targeted with a focus on regional areas with high rates of firearm ownership. Digital

displays were also concentrated on websites where firearm owners were more likely to visit. Social media advertising was primarily conducted through Twitter and—to a lesser extent—Facebook. This advertising was aimed at driving users to the Amnesty website.

Crime Stoppers Australia was contracted to promote the Amnesty through community engagement and digital communications. Community engagement was conducted at 79 events, including local shows, festivals, community days and neighbourhood watch meetings. Newsletters and brochures promoting the Amnesty were also distributed to relevant personnel, including local government officials and police. Digital communications consisted of 89 posts published through 35 digital channels.

Public relations activities were undertaken by state and territory police agencies and relevant public stakeholder groups. Stakeholder groups included licensed firearms dealers, peak firearms and farming industry bodies, shooting clubs, public health advocates, community groups and law councils. The Attorney-General's Department distributed media packs to participating groups; the packs included (but were not limited to) fact sheets, web artwork, printable posters and social media plans. Police agencies also received draft media releases and talking points to ensure nationally consistent messaging.

The Attorney-General's Department maintained an Amnesty website. The website hosted a range of pages, including 'Home', 'About the Amnesty', 'Resources', 'Contacts', and 'Find a drop-off point' (in which visitors could enter their postcode to find their closest drop-off location). The website further included a page for each of the states and territories, outlining jurisdiction-specific Amnesty arrangements. The Attorney-General's Department also maintained a national 1800-number, which people could call to be put through to their local firearms registry.

## OUTCOMES

The state and territory figures relating to firearms and firearm-related articles handed in during the Amnesty are provided below.

Please note that final figures from New South Wales were being confirmed when this report was released, and numbers from that state may be subject to change.

### Total number of items by category

Two categories of items were covered by the Amnesty: firearms, and firearm parts and accessories. The following table details the number of items handed in under each category.

**Table 1**

Jurisdiction	Firearms	Firearm parts and accessories
Australian Capital Territory	699	60
New South Wales	24,831	1,898
Northern Territory	347	12
Queensland	16,375	107
South Australia	2,825	26
Tasmania	1,830	117
Victoria	9,175	103
Western Australia	1,242	109
Total	57,324	2,432

### Total number of firearms by drop-off point

States and territories allowed items to be handed in to law enforcement and/or licensed firearms dealers (see [Attachment A](#) for further details). The following table details the number of firearms handed in under each category.

**Table 2**

Jurisdiction	Licensed firearms dealer	Law enforcement
Australian Capital Territory	0	699
New South Wales	16,856	7,975
Northern Territory	41	306
Queensland	12,441	3,934
South Australia	503	2,322
Tasmania	95	1,735
Victoria	7,218	1,957
Western Australia	0	1,242
Total	37,154	20,170

## Total number of firearms by reason

States and territories allowed items to be handed in for registration, or sale, or destruction, or a combination of these options (see [Attachment A](#) for further details). The following table details the number of firearms handed in under each category.

**Table 3**

Jurisdiction	Registration	Sale	Destruction
Australian Capital Territory	65	0	634
New South Wales	14,745	2,111	7,975
Northern Territory	171	0	176
Queensland	12,922	0	3,453
South Australia	335	0	2,490
Tasmania	75	27	1,728
Victoria	4,569*	1,968**	2,638***
Western Australia	162	0	1,080
Total	33,044	4,106	20,174

\*Registered firearms were those that had been surrendered under the Amnesty and not transferred to another licence holder or destroyed at the time of compiling data

\*\*Sold firearms were those that had been surrendered under the Amnesty and transferred to a category of licence other than a firearm dealer's licence at the time of compiling data

\*\*\*Destroyed firearms were those that had been confirmed as already destroyed by the Ballistics Unit at the time of compiling data

## Total number of firearms by stolen and missing items

States and territories performed standard checks on firearms after they were anonymously handed in to determine whether those firearms had previously been reported stolen or missing. The following table details the number of firearms handed in under each category.

**Table 4**

Jurisdiction	Stolen	Missing
Australian Capital Territory	2	0
New South Wales	61	105
Northern Territory	2	0
Queensland	65	0
South Australia	16	69
Tasmania	3	0
Victoria	2	223*
Western Australia	3	0
Total	154	397

\*Missing refers to a status of 'lost', 'whereabouts unknown' or 'interstate unconfirmed'

## Total number of firearms by action type

States and territories recorded the number of fully-automatic and semi-automatic firearms handed in. The following table details the number of firearms handed in under each category.

**Table 5**

Jurisdiction	Fully-automatic	Semi-automatic
Australian Capital Territory	1	29
New South Wales	9	792
Northern Territory	0	7
Queensland*	52	893
South Australia	2	68
Tasmania	0	27
Victoria	16	601
Western Australia	Not available	Not available
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2,417</b>

\*Figures do not include handguns

## Total number of firearms by description

States and territories recorded the number of firearms handed in falling to standard firearm types of rifle, shotgun, handgun, air rifle, imitation, and 'other'. The following table details the number of firearms handed in under each category.

**Table 6**

Jurisdiction	Rifle	Shotgun	Handgun	Air rifle	Imitation	Other
Australian Capital Territory	430	108	131	Counted in rifle category	30	0
New South Wales	18,104	5,558	951	0	0	218
Northern Territory	266	57	16	0	6	2
Queensland	9,976	2,863	638	2,398	0	500
South Australia	805	467	143	534	1	875
Tasmania	833	699	76	190	32	0
Victoria	3,908	2,341	750	1,694	93	389
Western Australia	860	186	196	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,182</b>	<b>12,279</b>	<b>2,901</b>	<b>4,816</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>1,984</b>



## Total number of parts and accessories by type

States and territories recorded the number of parts and accessories handed in falling to the categories of suppressor (or silencer), magazine, barrel, stock, receiver, and 'other'. The following table details the number of parts and accessories handed in under each of these categories.

**Table 7**

Jurisdiction	Suppressor	Magazine	Barrel	Stock	Receiver*	Other
Australian Capital Territory	11	10	0	27	12	0
New South Wales	30	190	1,180	24	41	433
Northern Territory	0	2	2	2	5	1
Queensland	10	0	22	0	75	0
South Australia	3	0	0	0	20	3
Tasmania	2	0	54	3	58	0
Victoria	6	7	21	2	0	67
Western Australia	1	93	15	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>1,294</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>504</b>

\*Though a receiver is generally considered a firearm by definition, individual receivers handed in during the Amnesty were counted as parts for the purposes of this report

## Total ammunition

Ammunition was able to be handed in during the Amnesty. States and territories recorded the amount of ammunition received either by number of rounds, or total weight. The following table details the amount of ammunition received according to one method or the other.

**Table 8**





Jurisdiction	Number of rounds	Weight
Australian Capital Territory	-	275kg
New South Wales	-	2,071kg
Northern Territory	1,300	-
Queensland	Not available	Not available
South Australia	520	-
Tasmania	Not available	Not available
Victoria	12,595	-
Western Australia	65,618	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,033</b>	<b>2,346kg</b>

## ITEMS OF INTEREST




Items of interest handed in during the Amnesty included firearms of historical value or interest, firearms of personal significance, and firearms that are highly controlled. The following tables provide a summary of some of the items falling to these categories.

Some jurisdictions also accepted non-firearms related items (including prohibited weapons) during the Amnesty. For example, Victoria received 97 bladed weapons and 54 un-bladed weapons; weapons surrendered included crossbows, tasers, swords, daggers, knuckle dusters and knives.



### Firearms of historical value or interest




Item	Photo
<p>A Sten machine gun was handed in to police in South Australia. Though the firearm was partially deactivated, it could have easily been modified back to an operable state. Sten machine guns are best known for their use by British Commonwealth forces during WWII.</p>	
<p>A husband and wife contacted their local historical society during the Amnesty to donate a revolver and two sabres. The items had belonged to one of the owners' fathers, who left Australia as a boy in the 1880s to complete his schooling in Switzerland. After completing his education, the boy joined the Swiss Armed Forces where he served as a Captain in the cavalry for a number of years before returning to Australia. The items were donated together with a complete uniform to a local museum where they will go on display.</p>	
<p>A former serving member of the Australian Defence Force contacted the Victorian RSL to donate firearms (including a Russian PPSH submachine gun) that had been in his family since WWII. The items have been acquired by the Victorian RSL and will go on display at local branches.</p>	
<p>A flare pistol was handed in to police in the Northern Territory. The pistol had been converted to shoot 12 gauge ammunition, and was reportedly used as a race starter during WWII.</p>	





<p>A German Maxim machine gun was handed in in the Australian Capital Territory. The machine gun had been captured by the Australian Light Horse in 1918, shipped to Australia and gifted to the town of Lal Lal in Victoria. The machine gun has been donated to the Australian War Memorial.</p>	
<p>A Tower Enfield pistol was handed in in the Australian Capital Territory. The Tower Enfield is typical of pistols used by organisations such as the New South Wales Police before the advent of black powder revolvers. Though there is no indication this particular pistol was used in government service, it has been donated to the New South Wales Police Museum for use in displays.</p>	
<p>A Martini Henry rifle manufactured in 1873 was handed in in the Australian Capital Territory. The rifle has Queensland Government markings, with the Australian War Memorial confirming it had been an original Queensland Police issue firearm. The rifle has been returned to Queensland Police and is now on display in its museum.</p>	
<p>A Spandau MG08 heavy machine gun was handed in in New South Wales. The MG08 (Maschinengewehr 08) was the German Army's standard machine gun in WWI. It fires between 500 and 600 rounds per minute and has an effective range of 2000 metres.</p>	<p>Not available</p>
<p>A Mauser 13mm anti-tank single shot bolt action rifle was handed in in New South Wales. The Mauser anti-tank rifle was the world's first anti-tank rifle, and the only anti-tank rifle to see service in WWI.</p>	<p>Not available</p>
<p>Fourteen WWI and WWII firearms were handed in together in Victoria. The 14 firearms, which included machine guns and semi-automatic rifles, had been rendered inoperable and were previously used for training purposes.</p>	<p>Not available</p>

### Firearms of personal significance



Item	Photo
<p>A Beaumont Adams Revolver circa 1856 which had been possessed by its owner since 1953 was handed in in Western Australia. At age 17, the owner had exchanged the handgun for cigarettes while working on a family property.</p>	
<p>A Brno CZ 527 rifle was handed in in Tasmania. The firearm was stolen from its owner in 1995. The original owner is still licensed, and the firearm—which has been well looked after—is being returned to him.</p>	

<p>A Lefauchaux pinfire revolver was handed in in Tasmania. Family members had been cleaning out belongings attached to a deceased estate, and found the firearm in its original leather case taped to the back of a desk drawer. The firearm is shown here alongside a standard pen to demonstrate its size.</p>	
<p>A bolt action rifle was handed in in the Northern Territory. To the untrained eye the firearm appears to be a spirit level; a hidden trigger is enclosed in the right hand side.</p>	
<p>A small French Garter gun was handed in to police in Victoria. The firearm was donated to the Sovereign Hill Collection, and is shown here alongside a standard pen to demonstrate its size.</p>	

### Highly controlled firearms

Item	Photo
<p>A homemade machine gun was handed in in South Australia. The firearm was housed in a briefcase when surrendered.</p>	
<p>A Norinco SKK semi-automatic rifle was handed in in Tasmania. The owner handed the firearm and 1,000 rounds of ammunition to police.</p>	



<p>A Buffalo Arms M1919A4 Browning machine gun was handed in in Western Australia. The firearm was found stored in a box in a cave on a large property.</p>	
<p>A rocket launcher was handed in in Queensland. The licensed firearms dealer to whom the item was handed in believes it was once recovered at a local tip.</p>	
<p>A homemade self-loading machine pistol was handed in in New South Wales. The firearm had the same appearance as the sub-machine guns manufactured by a Seven Hills jewellery maker arrested in 2013; those guns were allegedly sold to organised crime syndicates.</p>	<p>Not available</p>
<p>Twenty SKS assault rifles were handed in across New South Wales. These types of firearms were imported into Australia during the late 1980s in very large numbers.</p>	<p>Not available</p>
<p>A T2 MK5 assault rifle was handed in in New South Wales. The firearm was locally designed and produced.</p>	<p>Not available</p>
<p>Two Thompson 1928A1 submachine guns were handed in in New South Wales. The Thompson submachine gun is an American submachine gun that became famous during the USA's prohibition era. The Thompson submachine gun is also known as the 'Tommy gun'.</p>	<p>Not available</p>
<p>One 25mm single shot brass cannon was handed in in New South Wales. The cannon had been part of a deceased estate.</p>	<p>Not available</p>
<p>Two revolvers and nine self-loading pistols were handed in across New South Wales.</p>	<p>Not available</p>
<p>One Category E and 22 Category D firearms were handed in together in Victoria. The 23 semi-automatic and automatic firearms came from a deceased estate.</p>	<p>Not available</p>
<p>Two M1 Carbines and two M1 Garands were handed in together in Victoria. The owner had acquired them in the 1980s and—having not surrendered them during the 1996 buyback—was waiting for an opportunity to hand them in.</p> <p>A further eight M1 Carbines were handed in across New South Wales.</p>	<p>Not available</p>

## VOLUNTARY SURVEY RESULTS

A voluntary and anonymous survey was made available to anyone participating in the Amnesty. Participation was voluntary, and people were invited to complete all or some of the survey. Responses remain completely anonymous, and cannot be linked to amnesty participants. A copy of the survey is at [Attachment C](#).

### Number of surveys received

A total of 743 completed surveys were received. The majority of surveys were completed in two jurisdictions: New South Wales (66%; n=492) and Queensland (23%; n=172).

### Reason for surrender

Respondents were asked about the reason(s) they surrendered their firearm(s) during the Amnesty. Respondents could select one or more response options. The majority of respondents selected one response option (86%; n=616).

Over half (53%; n=390) of survey respondents indicated that one of the reasons they chose to surrender their firearm was the ability to register the firearm (Table 1). Twenty eight percent (n=206) indicated a sense of responsibility and seventeen percent (n=127) surrendered their firearm because they did not need or want the firearm anymore. Eleven percent (n=83) of respondents surrendered their firearm to avoid being charged.

**Table 9**

	Selected		Not selected		Unknown		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Ability to register firearm	390	52.5	329	44.3	24	3.2	743
Did not need or want the firearm any more	127	17.1	592	79.7	24	3.2	743
To avoid being charged	83	11.2	636	85.6	24	3.2	743
Sense of responsibility	206	27.7	513	69.0	24	3.2	743
Other	111	14.9	608	81.8	24	3.2	743

Source: Firearm amnesty survey 2017

### Source of firearm

Respondents were asked how they obtained the firearm(s) they handed in during the Amnesty. Forty-seven percent (n=347) of survey respondents stated that the firearm(s) were family heirlooms or acquired through a deceased estate. Another 27 percent (n=202) of respondents obtained the firearm(s) from a family member or friend. A fifth (20%; n=145) purchased or acquired their firearm before the reforms enacted as part of the 1996 National Firearms Agreement or the 2002 National Handgun Control Agreement.

**Table 10**

	n	%
Possessed before the 1996 firearm/2002 handgun reforms	145	19.5
Family heirloom or deceased estate	347	46.7
Obtained from a family member or friend	202	27.2
Other	32	4.3
Not stated	17	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Percentages may not total 100 percent due to rounding  
Source: Firearm amnesty survey 2017

### Reason why not previously surrendered

Eight in ten survey respondents (81%; n=605) had not surrendered a firearm in previous amnesties. Eighteen percent (n=133) indicated they had previously surrendered firearms. Less than one percent did not record a response (0.7%; n=5). A third of the 605 respondents (34%; n=205) who stated they had not surrendered a firearm in a previous amnesty indicated it was due to a lack of time or opportunity. A further half (50%; n=300) indicated it was for another reason. Of the latter group, 76 respondents (25%) stated they did not have the surrendered or other eligible firearm in their possession at the time of previous amnesties, 30 respondents (10%) were not aware or had forgotten about the firearm, 29 (10%) respondents had acquired the firearm through a deceased estate, and 25 respondents (8%) stated they had only recently acquired or found the firearm.

**Table 11**

	n	%
Did not have the time or opportunity	205	33.9
Other reason	300	49.6
Not stated	100	16.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Includes responses from respondents who stated they had not surrendered firearms in previous amnesties. Excludes responses from respondents who stated they had previously surrendered firearms but still provided a response to the question on reason for not surrendering a firearm in previous amnesties  
Note: Percentages may not total 100 percent due to rounding  
Source: Firearm amnesty survey 2017

### Length of time possessed

The length of time respondents possessed the firearm prior to handing it in during the Amnesty ranged from a couple of days to more than 50 years. Just under a third (32%; n=241) had the firearm for less than 12 months; 14 percent (n=107) for less than a month. Twenty-nine percent had the firearm for more than 20 years.

The number of respondents who stated owning the firearm for 20 or more years may be related to the high proportion of respondents aged 55 years and over who participated in the survey. However, caution is advised when interpreting these findings as length of possession may refer in some instances to family rather than individual possession.

**Table 12**

	n	%
<12 months	241	32.4
1–4 years	70	9.4
5–9 years	30	4.0
10–19 years	56	7.5
20 or more years	216	29.1
Not stated*	130	17.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\*Includes 24 responses that did not state a defined time period

Note: Percentages may not total 100 percent due to rounding

Source: Firearm amnesty survey 2017

### Firearm licence status

Seventy-two percent (n=536) of survey respondents stated they held a firearm licence.

Twenty-seven percent (n=202) did not hold a licence and less than one percent (n=5) did not state licence status.

### Participation rates

#### I. Gender

Eighty-two percent (n=605) of respondents were male and eight percent were female (n=58) (Table 5). Eleven percent of respondents (n=79) did not state their gender.

#### II. Age group

Six in ten respondents were aged 55 years and older, 27 percent (n=201) were aged 55 to 64 years, and 34 percent (n=254) were aged 65 years and over. Just two percent (n=16) of respondents were aged between 18 and 24 years.

**Table 13**

	n	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	605	81.4
Female	58	7.8
X	1	0.1
Not stated	79	10.6
<b>Age group</b>		
18–24	16	2.2
25–34	56	7.5
35–44	89	12.0
45–54	121	16.3
55–64	201	27.1
65 and over	254	34.2
Not stated	6	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Percentages may not total 100 percent due to rounding

Source: Firearm amnesty survey 2017



## How people heard about the Amnesty

Respondents were asked where they heard about the Amnesty and could select more than one response. Eighty-five percent of respondents (n=631) nominated one source and thirteen percent (n=99) nominated two or more sources.

One-third of respondents (32%; n=238) indicated they found out about the Amnesty from the newspaper. One-third (32%; n=236) stated digital media as the first source of information about the Amnesty. A quarter (25%; n=188) heard about the Amnesty through word of mouth.

Of those respondents who selected just one source of information, around a quarter each indicated the newspaper (26%; n=165) or digital media (28%; n=175) and just over a fifth (23%; n=142) indicated word of mouth.

**Table 14**

	Selected		Not selected		Unknown		Total
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Newspaper	238	32.0	492	66.2	13	1.7	743
Digital (website, social media)	236	31.8	494	66.5	13	1.7	743
Magazine or newsletter	93	12.5	637	85.7	13	1.7	743
Word of mouth	188	25.3	542	72.9	13	1.7	743
Other	111	14.9	619	83.3	13	1.7	743

Source: Firearm amnesty survey 2017

## **CONCLUSION**

The National Firearms Amnesty 2017 was a highly successful national event resulting in the registration, destruction and sale of unregistered firearms and firearm-related articles which had been held illegally. The successful Amnesty was the result of a large scale collaboration between Commonwealth, state and territory governments (including law enforcement agencies), licensed firearms dealers, Crime Stoppers Australia, firearms industry groups (including shooting clubs and associations), community-based organisations, public health advocates, and significant numbers of the general public.

The result of 57,324 firearms handed in over the course of the Amnesty represents a large number of firearms that posed a risk to public safety and could have been used for criminal enterprise. The Amnesty has resulted in a safer and more secure Australian community.

## ATTACHMENT A – JURISDICTION-SPECIFIC AMNESTY ARRANGEMENTS

### Registration, sale and destruction of items

The Amnesty model allowed each state and territory to determine for what purpose firearms and firearm-related articles could be handed in. The options included registration, sale, and destruction. Some states and territories offered all three options, while others did not. All jurisdictions allowed items to be handed in for destruction if a person could not or did not want to register or sell their items.

The table below outlines the arrangements in each state and territory.

Jurisdiction	Could items suitable for registration be registered by appropriately licensed people?	Could items suitable for sale be sold to a licensed firearms dealer (via a private commercial arrangement)?
ACT	Yes – an applicant could apply to register items against an existing licence, an upgraded licence, or a new licence	Conditional – prospective sale of items had to be discussed with the firearms registry in the first instance
NSW	Yes – an applicant could apply to register items against an existing licence, an upgraded licence, or a new licence	Yes
NT	Yes – an applicant could apply to register items against an existing licence, an upgraded licence, or a new licence	Conditional – prospective sale of items had to be discussed with the firearms registry in the first instance
Qld	Yes – an applicant could apply to register items against an existing licence, an upgraded licence, or a new licence	Yes
SA	Conditional – only those who were already licensed or those handing in heirloom or historically significant items could apply to have items registered	Conditional – only those with a firearms licence could approach licensed firearms dealers to discuss prospective sale of items
Tas	Yes – an applicant could apply to register items against an existing licence, an upgraded licence, or a new licence	Yes
Vic	Yes – an applicant could apply to register items against an existing licence, an upgraded licence, or a new licence	Conditional – only those with a firearms licence could approach licensed firearms dealers to discuss prospective sale of items
WA	Yes – an applicant could apply to register items against an existing licence, an upgraded licence, or a new licence	Conditional – prospective sale of items had to be discussed with the firearms registry in the first instance

## Authorised drop-off locations

The Amnesty model allowed each state and territory to determine which locations people could hand in firearms and firearm-related articles. The options included police stations, mobile stations, and licensed firearms dealers. One state (Tasmania) offered all three, while other states and territories did not. States and territories that did allow items to be handed in to licensed firearms dealers made their own arrangements for which dealers would participate.

The table below outlines the arrangements in each state and territory.

Jurisdiction	Could items be handed in to a police station for registration, sale or destruction?	Could items be handed in to mobile police stations for registration, sale or destruction?	Could items be handed in to participating licensed firearm dealers for registration, sale or destruction?
ACT	Yes	No	No
NSW	Conditional – items could be handed in to police stations for destruction (or donation) but not registration or sale	No	Yes
NT	Yes	No	Yes
Qld	Yes – police stations were approved drop-off locations, though people were encouraged to hand in items to participating licensed firearm dealers (rather than police) where possible	No	Yes
SA	Conditional – items could be handed in to police stations for destruction (or donation) but not registration or sale	No	Yes
Tas	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vic	Yes – police stations were not advertised as approved drop-off locations, but items handed into police were accepted	No	Yes
WA	Yes	No	No

## ATTACHMENT B – PRIMARY ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

# Now's the time to hand it in without penalty.



**Australian Government**  
A joint Australian, state and territory government initiative

**NATIONAL FIREARMS AMNESTY**  
JULY - SEPT 2017

**Have a hand in making your community safer. Register or dispose of unregistered firearms.**

The National Firearms Amnesty is your one opportunity to hand in or register any unregistered or unwanted firearms, with no penalty. You may also be eligible to sell your firearm to a dealer. So if you'd like to help make a safer community, now's the time to act.

**PENALTIES APPLY AFTER SEPTEMBER 30:  
FINES UP TO \$280,000 • UP TO 14 YEARS JAIL**

Call 1800 909 826 Visit [firearmsamnesty.ag.gov.au](http://firearmsamnesty.ag.gov.au)

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# ATTACHMENT C – VOLUNTARY SURVEY

NATIONAL FIREARMS  
**AMNESTY**  
JULY - SEPT 2017



Australian Government  
A joint Australian, state and territory  
government initiative

## National Firearms Amnesty 2017: voluntary survey

You are invited to answer questions about your decision to participate in the amnesty. The responses to the survey will be used to assess amnesty outcomes and support future amnesty initiatives. Your participation in the survey is **voluntary** and you may complete some or all of the survey. Your responses will remain **anonymous** and cannot be linked to you personally.

1. Why did you choose to surrender your firearm(s) during this amnesty? (Tick all that apply)

- ability to register firearm
- did not need or want the firearm any more
- to avoid being charged
- sense of responsibility
- other (please specify)

.....  
.....  
.....

2. Have you surrendered firearms during previous amnesties?

- yes     no

3. What were the reasons for not previously surrendering your firearm(s)? (Tick all that apply)

- did not have the time or opportunity
- other (please specify)

.....  
.....  
.....

4. How did you obtain the firearm(s) you surrendered today?

- possessed before the 1996 firearm/2002 handgun reforms
- family heirloom or deceased estate
- obtained from a family member or friend
- other (please specify)

.....  
.....  
.....

5. How long have you had the firearm(s) (in years or months)?

.....  
.....  
.....

6. Do you hold a firearm license?

- yes
- no

7. Gender

- female
- male
- X

8. Age group

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 and over

9. How did you hear about the amnesty?

- newspaper
- digital (e.g. website, social media)
- magazine or newsletter
- word of mouth
- other (please specify)

.....  
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.....

Call 1800 909 826 Visit [firearmsamnesty.ag.gov.au](http://firearmsamnesty.ag.gov.au)

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