

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

Program: 1.2 AGD Operating Expenses - National Security and Criminal Justice

Question No. AE17/137

Senator Watt, Murray asked the following question at the hearing on 24 March 2017:

Senator WATT: I think these questions relate to the Criminal Justice Group. They are a couple of questions about the National Firearms Agreement. I understand that, as part of the National Firearms Agreement update, an industry reference group was established to advise on the update. That is correct?

Ms Wells: Yes, that is right. An industry working group was formed to help inform government on some of the key issues around the update to that agreement.

Senator WATT: How many members of that industry reference group are there?

Ms Wells: I might have to take that on notice. There are approximately 10 different industry groups. I can certainly confirm that.

Senator WATT: Who made the decision as to who would be appointed to that industry reference group?

Ms Wells: I believe that was the Minister for Justice but I can certainly take that on notice and confirm that.

Senator WATT: Did you provide advice to the minister as to recommended membership of the industry reference group?

Ms Wells: Sorry; I will also have to take that on notice.

Senator WATT: Okay.

ANSWER PARTLY PROVIDED:

Ms Wells: That is correct, and I can also confirm the actual representatives on that industry reference group. They were Field & Game Australia, Firearm Safety—

Senator WATT: Sorry; would you just speak into the microphone a little bit more.

Ms Wells: Of course. Sorry, Senator. Field & Game Australia, Firearm Safety Foundation (Victoria), National Firearm Dealers Association, Shooting Australia, Shooting Industry Foundation of Australia and the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia.

Senator WATT: Thank you.

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

The members of the Firearms Industry Reference Group are Field and Game Australia, Firearm Safety Foundation (Victoria), National Firearm Dealers Association, Shooting Australia, Shooting Industry Foundation of Australia, Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia, and an independent firearms expert.

The Minister for Justice, the Hon Michael Keenan MP, appointed the members of the Reference Group. The department provided advice to the Minister's Office on membership of the Reference Group.