

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (BE14/027) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Singh (L&CA 89) asked:

Senator SINGH: Can you give details of the number of weapons seizures by customs officials for the year to date?

Mr Pezzullo: Yes, we have some data on that. Whether we can do it as of today, I do not know. I will ask the deputy to kick off and we will see where we go.

Mr Quaedvlieg: I apologise, that might be one I might need to take on notice. I do not think I have a year-to-date figure in relation to firearms with me today. What I can tell you is that we have 60 active firearms related investigations in train at the moment and 14 firearms related matters before the courts. In terms of actual numbers seized, either whole or part, I will take that on notice and come back to you.

*Answer:*

From 1 February 2014 to 31 May 2014, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) seized 14 460 non-firearm weapons:

<b>Weapons category</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Bladed weapons <sup>i</sup>	7 729
Martial arts and sporting weapons <sup>ii</sup>	2 522
Laser pointers	3 354
Law enforcement weapons and equipment <sup>iii</sup>	516
Anti-personnel sprays and chemicals <sup>iv</sup>	190
Items of warfare <sup>v</sup>	149
Total	14 460

From 1 February 2014 to 31 May 2014, the ACBPS seized 1 339 firearms and related goods:

<b>Firearm category</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Firearms <sup>vi</sup>	48
Firearm parts, magazines and accessories	172
Air firearms <sup>vii</sup>	554
Air firearm parts, magazines and accessories	159
Imitation firearms	406
Total	1 339 <sup>viii</sup>

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.

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<sup>i</sup> 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, non-metallic and non-ceramic knives, blades and spikes, and butterfly knives and their parts.

<sup>ii</sup> 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.

<sup>iii</sup> Law enforcement weapons and equipment comprise electric shock weapons and their parts, acoustic anti-personnel devices, body armour and extendable batons and their parts.

<sup>iv</sup> Anti-personnel sprays and chemicals also included grenades and canisters for use with anti-personnel sprays and chemicals.

<sup>v</sup> Items of warfare include items such as inert grenades, bombs, projectiles and parts and accessories for such items.

<sup>vi</sup> Firearms comprise of any device that is designed or adapted to discharge a projectile by means of an explosive charge, including blank fire firearms.

<sup>vii</sup> Air firearms comprise of any device that is designed or adapted to discharge a projectile by means of compressed air and include soft air (bb) guns and paintball markers.

<sup>viii</sup> Ammunition and components of ammunition for firearms and air firearms are excluded from this figure.