

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

Question No. 13

Senator Furner asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2012:

Senator FURNER: In respect of the drive-by shootings, in particular in New South Wales, what sorts of numbers are we talking about? Are we talking in the high hundreds?

Mr Lawler: I do have some figures around that. I understand from our discussions with New South Wales police that this is a cyclical thing. This is why I use the term 'public shootings'. Public shootings can incorporate drive-by shootings, but drive-by shootings may not necessarily capture the full gamut of that. I may need to take that specific question on notice. I understand it is under 100, but it is cyclical from jurisdiction to jurisdiction as these matters come to the fore. They are driven, might I say, principally by disputes between organised criminal groups over illicit markets, who use violence and this demonstrated exercise of force to exercise control over their market share.

Senator FURNER: If you do not have the numbers on drive-bys, do you have numbers on public shootings?

Mr Lawler: I do not have them immediately before me, but I am sure members of the commission who are working and watching this hearing will be able to provide those as we proceed through the hearing process.

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

In NSW the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research has the role of collecting and reporting data relating to firearms offences. The Bureau reports such offences in two categories namely "Unlawfully discharge firearm" and "Discharge firearm into premises". For the period October 2010 to September 2011 the figures reported were 152 incidents of *Unlawfully Discharge Firearm* and 88 incidents of *Discharge Firearm into Premises*¹. We understand that statistics for the October to December 2011 period will be released by the Bureau in April 2012.

The ACC is working closely with the NSW Police Force on the analysis of firearms offences including incidents which have occurred since the Bureau reported the above statistics. It would however be necessary to defer to the Bureau which has the role, in NSW, of official and public reporting of such numbers.

¹ Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research