

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 204

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2005:

In how many instances have firearms been seized by the ACS subsequent to their importation into Australia? Please provide a breakdown as to the time and place of the seizures, how many were seized, their estimated value and what models were seized.

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

Number of seizures

Financial Year	Handguns	Rifles	Shotguns	U/C*	Total Firearms	Replica
2001-2002	200	264	88	9	561	159
2002-2003	87	65	19	6	177	251
2003-2004	48	447**	10	1	506	429
2004-2005	15	17	6	1	39	545
TOTAL	350	793	123	17	1283	1384

*U/C – Uncategorized

**One shipment seized contained 400 rifles.

Time, Place of Seizure and Model

The current database used to provide firearms seizure statistics does not provide details on time and place of seizure nor does it provide the model of the firearms. This level of information is maintained in individual Customs seizure files held in regions and would require significant manual processing to tabulate.

An internal Customs database is currently in development with expected implementation at the end of November 2005. The database will provide 'Date (not time), Place, Type and Model' information effective from the implementation date, but will not include retrospective population.

Value of Each Firearm

Customs does not undertake a valuation of seized firearms.