

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.1

Question No. 61

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2006:

In relation to the firearms Policy Working Group can a brief be provided on the range of particular issues that is currently being considered?

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

Current projects being undertaken by the Australasian Police Ministers' Council Firearms Policy Working Group include:

- An investigation of the development of a National Firearms Management System which will allow cross-jurisdictional tracking of firearms from point of import or manufacture to point of export or destruction.
- An investigation of firearms theft to identify the nature and prevalence of firearms theft and develop initiatives for reducing firearms theft.
- The development of a minimum standard for firearms storage across all sectors of the firearms community that takes into account comparative risk of theft.
- The development of nationally consistent regulation of firearm manufacturers and film armourers.
- The development of nationally consistent mechanisms to control deactivated firearms.
- The implementation of Minimum National Firearms Safety Training Standards and development of standardised training materials to be used in the delivery of firearms safety training.
- A review of the regulation of replica firearms, to determine if they pose a risk to community safety and measures necessary to achieve national standards for regulation.
- A legislative review to identify:
 - potential loopholes in Commonwealth, State and Territory legislation that may contribute to diversion of firearms into the illicit market.
 - potential issues in penalties and sentencing for firearms offences.