

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

Question No. 60

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:

Earlier this year Minister for Home Affairs Jason Clare announced that the ACC would be heading up the National Intelligence Assessment of the illegal firearms market in Australia, is that correct?

1. What has been the cost of running this so far?
2. Where is the funding and resources for that inquiry coming from?
3. How many staff were allocated to the National Intelligence Assessment?
4. What is the outcome of the inquiry?

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

Question 1-3:

A project team was established within the ACC to deliver the NIFA. This dedicated team consisted of five analysts, including one firearm technical expert, oversighted by one SES officer. The ACC's contribution was funded from base appropriation. As at 30 September 2012, the cost for the project has been just over \$257,000. This excludes additional costs associated with incidental support provided within the ACC. The cost to agencies who contributed to the NIFA is not available and has not been included in the figure above.

Question 4:

The purpose of the NIFA was to provide a contemporaneous intelligence picture of the Australian licit and illicit firearm markets, including analysis of the use of firearms by criminals.

The NIFA provided a snapshot of the Australian licit and illicit firearm markets in 2010 and 2011 and informed understanding of:

- the nature and size of the licit market, including the number of registered firearms and licensed firearm holders
- historic and current sources of domestic and transnational supply to the illicit market, including analysis of the ACC Firearm Trace Program data
- organised crime/gang involvement in the illicit market, including drive-by shootings
- potential mitigation strategies aimed at reducing the supply of firearms to the illicit market.

National policy responses to the NIFA were formulated via inter-jurisdictional mechanisms, including the Standing Council on Police and Emergency Management (SCPEM). Findings of the NIFA were considered by the SCPEM at their meeting on 29 June 2012, with Ministers agreeing to a range of activities to progress a national response to firearm crime. The SCPEM Communiqué of 29 June 2012 is available at

<http://www.ag.gov.au/Committeesandcouncils/Ministerialcouncils/Pages/StandingCouncilonPoliceandEmergencyManagementCommuniques.aspx>