

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

**Question No. 8**

**Senator Wright asked the following questions at the hearing on 16 October 2012:**

**Senator WRIGHT:** ... I am interested to know how many hand guns are registered in Australia and how many of those are semiautomatic?

**Mr Lawler:** I could do some quick arithmetic on the figures that I just gave you. Of the 2.75 million registered firearms, 90 per cent are long arms so 10 per cent is 275,000 registered hand guns, which would be the deduction from those figures.

**Senator WRIGHT:** And how many of those are semiautomatics?

**Mr Lawler:** I do not know that the data we have for the assessment breaks it down specifically by semiautomatic. I would need to check that if I can so that I am completely accurate and then get back to the committee. Potentially during the course of this hearing we may be able to provide information on that.

**Senator WRIGHT:** Thank you, I would appreciate that you take it on notice. Can the data be broken down even further to show how many of these hand guns are owned by civilians and how many are owned by the police or other security providers?

**Mr Lawler:** I believe there is the opportunity to further refine the data holdings. Whether that has been done specifically in the context of the national firearms assessment is another issue.

The assessment did not go to the specific type of firearms per se but made broad strategic assessments about the market as we knew it based on the data that was available to us.

**Senator WRIGHT:** Can I ask you to take that question on notice? I would be very interested to know that breakdown.

**Mr Lawler:** If it is available we will certainly provide that.

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

1. The estimate of the number of handguns registered in Australia provided by the ACC CEO John Lawler at the Supplementary Senate Estimates hearing in October 2012 was based on findings of the National Illicit Firearm Assessment (NIFA) that the vast majority of firearms registered in Australia are long-arms, which represent in excess of 90 per cent of registered firearms. According to firearm registration data obtained from the National Firearm Licence and Registration System (NFLRS) on 23 March 2012 by CrimTrac<sup>1</sup>, there were 196,915<sup>2</sup> handguns registered in Australia. The NIFA did not breakdown further handguns by action type and as a result this information is not held by the ACC.

The collection of data on action types will be considered in the updated NIFA to be conducted in 2013-2014.

2. The ACC does not hold that information. The collection of data in relation to handguns registered to police services and security providers will be considered in the updated NIFA to be conducted in 2013-2014.

---

<sup>1</sup> CrimTrac hosts the platform for state and territory firearm related data, which is regularly supplied by jurisdictions for upload to the NFLRS.

<sup>2</sup> Data reflects handguns with a status of 'issued registration', 'dealer stock' or 'custodian'. The figure is based on data supplied from source jurisdictions on various dates in March 2012 and uploaded to the NFLRS.