



Additional submission from Gun Control NZ to the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee on the Arms Legislation Bill

This submission confirms that 8,405 people signed up to the Gun Control NZ summary submission. The names of these 8,405 people are attached. We have provided the names for the Select Committee staff to verify. We request that the list of names is not published. All these people have valid email addresses.

The summary submission supported by these 8,405 people is as follows:

Purpose statement

We support the proposed addition of a purpose statement. The current 1983 Act lacks a purpose statement. It is important to emphasise that the purpose of the legislation is safety. It will also be useful to explicitly state that firearms ownership is a privilege and not a right.

Creation of a register

We support the creation of a register. Registers make firearms owners more accountable for their weapons and more likely to store them appropriately. They also reduce the flow of guns to unlicensed people and have been shown to reduce firearms thefts. Registers are useful for solving crimes and are an important tool for improving the safety of police officers and other frontline workers.

Licensing - fit and proper person test

We support the inclusion of specific factors to be considered in assessing someone's suitability for a firearms licence. The list of factors indicating that someone is not a fit and proper person should be expanded to include offences that demonstrate a reckless disregard for the safety of others. This would include offences such as drunk driving and dangerous driving.

Licensing - length of licence period

We support shortening the licence period. People's circumstances can change significantly over 10 years. Canada and the UK both have 5 year licenses. Australian states have a range of terms depending on the firearm. Some are as short as 1 year. We recommend a 3 year license term. This was at the bottom of the range recommended by Thorp but is appropriate given the rapid changes (such as online radicalisation) that are possible in a short period of time.

Control of ammunition sales

We support the provisions that create stronger controls on ammunition sales. Only licensed firearms owners should be allowed to purchase ammunition. Licensed firearms owners should also only be allowed to purchase ammunition that is suitable for their registered firearms. Ammunition sales should be recorded on the register.