

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM OF ACTION
TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS APECTS**

NATIONAL SMALL ARMS STATEMENT

AUSTRALIA

Australia has been an active player in international small arms control efforts reflecting the importance it attaches to domestic gun control. In the past year, the Australian Government has been actively promoting international cooperation to deal with small arms related problems, with a particular focus on our region.

Australia is committed to working with regional partners and civil society to address the challenge of small arms proliferation in the Pacific. It is our view that enhanced regional action is the building block for a broader international effort.

The following is an overview of measures taken at the national, regional and international level to address the challenge of the proliferation, misuse and destabilising accumulations of small arms.

NATIONAL MEASURES

National Coordination Agencies or Bodies

The point of contact on international policy is the Arms Control and Counter-Proliferation Branch in the International Security Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The Australasian Police Ministers' Council (APMC) is the principal forum for national firearms policy development and implementation activities. The APMC includes the Minister for Justice and Customs of the Commonwealth, and Police Ministers responsible for firearms legislation and policy within each State and Territory. The Firearms Unit of the Attorney General's Department is responsible for providing the Government with a national and international perspective on firearms policy and for coordinating the development of national legislation on firearms within Australia's federal constitutional arrangements. It takes a leading role in co-ordinating consistent policy and legislation by the States and Territories who have direct responsibility for domestic firearms control legislation.

Officers of the Australian and State and Territory governments meet regularly under the APMC's auspices to address firearms issues. Leading national law enforcement bodies including the Australian Crime Commission and the Australian Federal Police, inform the development of policy on firearms and provide information on trends in illicit firearms trafficking.

Following a national planning conference in January 2003 involving senior representatives of all Australian criminal law enforcement and other relevant

organisations, it was agreed that the Australian Crime Commission would coordinate strategic intelligence and operational activity relating to illegal firearms trafficking on a national basis. It has developed a national framework for the collection of intelligence relating to illegal firearms trafficking and is in the process of preparing a strategic assessment of the nature and scope of the trafficking problem within Australia. It is targeting illegal handgun trafficking as a matter of priority and is currently supporting several multi-agency operations involving targets whose activities cross two or more State/Territory boundaries.

Legislation, Regulations and Administrative Procedures

Australia has in place some of the most stringent firearms laws in the world. Since 1996, firearms reform measures have occupied the attention of the highest levels of the Australian Government.

The possession and manufacture of firearms and all other types of small arms are subject to strict national controls and strong law enforcement. In Australia's federal system of government, the six State and two Territory jurisdictions have direct legislative responsibility for firearms control measures (including the possession, ownership, use and transfer of firearms, their parts, accessories and ammunition). The Federal Government is responsible for controlling the import and export of firearms, their parts, accessories and ammunition.

Following the Port Arthur massacre in 1996 in which a person armed with high powered rifles murdered 35 persons at a historic tourist site, the Australian Government tightened the regulation of ownership and licensing of firearms through the National Firearms Agreement (NFA). This agreement is the foundation of Australia's domestic firearms legislation. It reflected agreement by all governments in Australia's federal system to improve firearms legislation and introduced:

- . prohibitions on a range of automatic and semi-automatic or "military style" long arms, 660,000 of which were surrendered under a "buyback" and compensation scheme funded by the Australian Government;
- . registration systems maintained by each jurisdiction and linked across Australia;
- . requirement for genuine reasons for owning, possessing or using a firearm;
- . registration of all firearms;
- . licensing of all firearms owners;
- . strict health, character and safety criteria for firearms licence applicants; and
- . minimum firearms safety and storage requirements.

Under Australian law a person must have a genuine reason to possess a firearm. Genuine reasons include: participation in the sport of target shooting; pursuit of an occupation that requires a firearm (eg primary production, vertebrate pest control, security industry); and the collection of handguns of historical or thematic significance. Strict security requirements are imposed on all firearms licence holders.

The Federal Government has continued to work with the governments of Australia's States and Territories to develop new legislative and policy initiatives in support of the aims of the NFA, to refine the regulation of lawful firearms and to improve community safety. Following a tragic shooting at an Australian University in October 2002, by a person who was licensed to hold handguns for the purposes of sports target shooting, the Federal, State and Territory Governments of Australia implemented further measures to reduce the circulation of small concealable handguns such as "pocket pistols" (which are not necessary for the sport of target shooting) and to strengthen significantly controls on access to handguns by sporting shooters. The reforms do not affect access to handguns by private security firms or official agencies such as police; however, a review of the allocation of handguns and storage practices in the private security industry is being conducted. The reforms include the following strengthened control measures:

Prohibited handguns

Sporting shooters no longer have access to small and readily concealable handguns or handguns of a high calibre. Specifically sporting shooters cannot acquire or possess:

- a handgun in excess of .38" calibre unless the shooter is endorsed as participating in a specially accredited event (metallic silhouette and Western (single) action) which require the use of handguns of up to .45" calibre.
- Semi-automatic handguns with a barrel length of less than 120mm, and revolvers and single shot handguns with a barrel length of less than 100mm. Some specialized target pistols of a barrel length below 120mm are still permitted because of their unique characteristics and lack of concealability due to their overall size.
- A handgun with a shot capacity of greater than 10 rounds – magazines over 10 round capacity are also prohibited.

Stricter Controls on Access to Handguns

To ensure only genuine and committed sporting shooters gain access to handguns, the reform measures establish a system of "graduated access" to handguns by sporting shooters who wish to enter the sport. Sporting shooters are also required to participate in a minimum number of shooting matches each year to demonstrate their commitment to the sport and their need for handguns. Failure to meet the minimum participation level results in the loss of their handgun licence. The access regime includes:

- stricter character requirements;
- limited access to handguns for the first six months of a person's licence (no ownership is allowed for the first six months);
- completion of a training course and attainment of minimum participation rates in the first six months;

- satisfactory completion of the first six month's requirements will allow the person to purchase one .22" calibre pistol and a .177" air pistol; or one centrefire pistol and a .177" air pistol;
- possession of a handgun only after 12 months. A person must also establish a genuine need for each additional handgun; adherence to safe storage requirements; and specify of the particular sports shooting discipline in which the handgun is required; and
- a requirement that sporting shooter clubs endorse a member's application to acquire a handgun.

Buyback of prohibited handguns

The prohibition on certain handguns has been accompanied by a surrender and "buyback" of handguns and certain parts and accessories. The handgun buyback commenced in most Australian jurisdictions in July 2003 and is set to finish across all jurisdictions by 30 June 2004. The Federal Government has undertaken to fund two-thirds of the cost of acquiring prohibited handguns and the States and Territories one-third. An amnesty has been conducted concurrently during which handgun owners have been able to surrender illegally held handguns without penalty. The Federal Government has ensured that handgun owners including handgun dealers are receiving fair compensation for handguns by developing valuations based on experts' opinions and a formal resolution process for disputed valuations.

Export/import controls

Australia implements strict and comprehensive controls and licensing procedures to regulate the import and export of small arms. These controls regulate the legal trade in small arms, which in turn helps to prevent illicit trafficking.

All proposed exports from Australia of defence and related goods, including small arms, are subject to comprehensive, case-by-case government review and licensing procedures. Licence approvals are issued only for exports that are consistent with Australia's international obligations and broader interests, including security and human rights considerations.

Expressed prohibitions

Australia's strict policy on illegal arms transfers is illustrated by the various conditions under which exports of military small arms and military goods are expressly prohibited, including:

- to countries against which the United Nations Security Council has imposed a mandatory arms embargo;
- to governments that seriously violate their citizens' rights, unless there is no reasonable risk that the goods might be used against those citizens; and
- where foreign and strategic policy interests outweigh export benefits.

Specific destinations

Australia has adopted the view that in certain circumstances it may be necessary to prevent the export of non-military lethal goods (including certain types of small arms, such as hunting or sporting weapons) to particular destinations on foreign policy, defence or other national interest grounds. As with military goods, the export of non-military lethal goods also requires an export licence or permit.

End-use and end-user certification requirements

Australia fully complies with third party transfer undertakings and obligations provided to the original exporting State. The discharge of these obligations includes notification of the original exporting State of the intention to retransfer.

Australia also requires end-use and end-user certification for small arms and light weapons from designated recipient states. Military firearms are only exported to a foreign government or its authorised representative.

Australia fully complies with third party transfer undertakings and obligations provided to the original exporting state. The discharge of these obligations includes notification of the original exporting state. Australian Customs Service inspections are thorough and include use of sophisticated technologies and targeted inspections based on intelligence information.

Restricted Goods Permits (RGP)

Certain firearms may be exported as part of their personal effects (accompanied or unaccompanied) of a bona fide traveller, but only for the following purposes:

- to take part in overseas shooting sport events;
- hunting;
- to carry for protection in international waters against piracy;
- re-exporting a firearm declared on arrival in Australia; or
- re-exporting a firearm that has been declared on import, and where the individual is not able to produce relevant import approval documentation.

Changes to RGP, effective 1 April 2004, further tighten the controls on firearm exports, specifically to reduce the likelihood of exported weapons leaking into the black market. Licence and registration certificates must now be provided, and the firearms are now to be physically verified by Australian Customs Service officers at the international point of departure. RGP data will also now be shared with State, Territory and Federal Firearms registries.

Imports

Australian Customs Service inspections are thorough and include use of sophisticated technologies and targeted inspections based on intelligence information.

In March 2000, Australia increased penalties for illegal firearms trafficking. Through amendments to the *Customs Act 1901*, criminal offences relating to importing firearms were made punishable on conviction by a penalty of up to \$275,000 and/or 10 years imprisonment.

On 20 December 2002, the Federal Government banned the import of all prohibited handguns by sporting shooters (that is, all handguns other than those which meet the prescribed physical characteristics, including barrel length, calibre and shot capacity), by amendment to its Customs legislation. States and Territories have implemented the same reforms in their own legislation.

Tight controls are applied to all firearms imports. Importers are required to obtain permission from the Attorney-General or State and Territory police prior to the importation of firearms, their parts and ammunition. Additionally, limits are placed on the stocks of newly imported handguns that importers/dealers can hold (handgun stocks over and above the set limits must be held by the Australian Customs Service).

National Firearm Trafficking Policy Agreement – 2002 (NFPTA)

The NFPTA reflects Australia's focus on effective control of the illegal trade in firearms by strengthening domestic legislation and increasing efforts to detect and prosecute those engaged in firearms trafficking. The NFPTA, an administrative and legislative action plan, was endorsed by Australasian Police Minister's Council (APMC) in July 2002 and provides for:

- increased efforts to detect illegally imported handguns through improved Australian Customs Service controls
 - the Government has committed significant resources to prevent the illegal importation of handguns including increasing border activity and commissioning state-of-the-art x-ray equipment at Australian ports;
- substantial legislative penalties for illegal possession or selling of a firearm and an extended and comprehensive legislative definition of "possession";
- consistent provisions to regulate the manufacture of firearms;
- stricter monitoring of licensed firearms dealers including power to refuse or cancel licences where the dealer is associated with or employs persons of bad character;
- tighter recording and reporting of transactions involving major component firearm parts to ensure firearms cannot be assembled from unregistered parts; and
- national legislation to complement State and Territory laws against firearms trafficking.

In support of its commitment to the NFPTA, the Federal Government introduced the *Crimes Legislation Amendment (People Smuggling, Firearms Trafficking and Other Measures) Act 2002*. This legislation prohibits *inter alia* interstate trafficking in

firearms and provides for a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and/or a \$275,000 fine for those convicted of firearms trafficking. The penalty is in general more substantial than that provided under State and Territory legislation for the illegal sale or possession of a firearm. The legislation provides law enforcement authorities with additional power and flexibility in the detection and prosecution of firearms trafficking within Australia.

Marking and Tracing

Australia manufactures very few firearms. All States and Territories maintain registers of firearms including the make and model and serial number and owners' details. Under the National Firearms Trafficking Policy Agreement, Australia's States and Territories have undertaken to strengthen their firearms legislation including those provisions which regulate the manufacture and marking of firearms.

Firearms manufactured after 1900 must bear a unique marking (i.e. serial number). Australian Customs Service monitors compliance with this requirement as a part of import procedures.

Australia is currently reviewing its marking practices in the context of negotiation for an agreement on marking and tracing.

Record Keeping

Australia has a comprehensive system for compulsory registration of firearms and licensing of firearms owners, which is implemented at the state and federal level. Export and import procedures require full details of the firearms to be provided to the Australian Customs Service. Police authorities have access to firearms registration and licensing details through the maintenance of individual jurisdictional registry systems. Development of a comprehensive National Firearms Licensing and Registration system which would provide truly national tracking of all firearms from point of import/manufacture to the point of export or destruction is proceeding.

Accounting for Small Arms and Light Weapons

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) maintains strict accountability processes for its weapons. Firearms storage and armoury security remains a key issue for the Government. Strict control measures apply to military weapons, munitions and explosives. Weapons are individually numbered and tracked, and are stored securely in defence establishments. All weapons are registered and subject to strict accounting procedures, including an annual census under the supervision and direction of the Defence Inspector General's Office. The aim of each census is to account for 100 percent of weapons. Thorough investigation procedures are in place for investigations into the loss, theft or attempted theft of weapons, ammunition and explosives. Control measures on the employment of military small arms are enforced on operations through Rules of Engagement and Orders for Opening Fire.

Defence operates an inventory management system which details the exact number and location of its small arms by type. All Australian Defence Force official stocks are audited on an annual basis. Defence regularly reviews operational stock levels against capability requirements. This analysis provides the basis for ongoing provisioning and determination of any potential surplus.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) imports official police issue firearms directly from the manufacturers, bypassing product importers and agents. The AFP clears all their firearms through Australian Customs Service directly into the AFP Central Armoury. These firearms are then inspected, and registered before being issued personally to sworn members. Regular audits, inspections and servicing are conducted. The transport of firearms is controlled through secure couriers on special contract conditions. All security conduct is controlled by the AFP Protective Security Manual.

Under recent firearm/handgun reforms, firearm authorities are required to review the adequacy of safe storage compliance and audit arrangements and to give additional emphasis in information and publicity material of the need to safely store firearms. Presently, all firearms licensees are required to store their firearms to a set minimum standard.

Firearms storage and allocation practices within the private security industry will also be examined and a report prepared for Police Ministers.

Destruction of Surplus Small Arms and Light Weapons

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) and other national and State and Territory agencies closely monitor their firearms requirements and stocks. If a particular ADF weapon is declared out of service, disposal action will be commenced. Weapons are destroyed (usually by smelting), or occasionally they may be on-sold to a third country. The same process occurs for weapons declared surplus to requirement. However, surplus weapons may be held in long-term storage as War Reserve Stocks. In the event of a sale, the transfer of the weapon is effected according to the aforementioned procedures governing weapon exports. This ensures that the sale complies with relevant Australian Government policy, and arms or weapons are sold only to approved purchasers, using the mechanism of end-user certification. In both the case of disposal by sale to another country and/or destruction, official stocks are strictly controlled by the Defence Materiel Organisation using extant procedural requirements, including the recording of all serial numbers.

Firearms surrendered under the 1996 buyback of long arms were destroyed. Those surrendered under the 2003 buyback of handguns are being destroyed under strict supervision. Firearms seized by the Australian Customs Service as prohibited imports/exports are also destroyed under the provisions of the *Customs Act 1901*.

Brokering Legislation

Australia is a signatory to the UN Firearms Protocol and is currently considering firearms brokering issues within the context of its obligations under the Protocol. Currently, the Crimes (Foreign Incursion and Recruitment) Act 1978 has provisions which criminalise activities including certain forms of brokering.

Australia is also undertaking a review of export control legislation which will address the issue of extra-territorial arms brokering controls.

Public Awareness

The Australian Government appreciates the importance of informing and educating the community on the problems and consequences of the illicit trade in SALW. The Government has funded a number of initiatives to raise public awareness.

The Australian Government implemented a targeted information and awareness campaign for those affected by recent handgun reform measures. The Australian Government-funded Australian Institute of Criminology has undertaken extensive research on firearms issues. A recent report on firearms theft has served as a basis for demonstrating the need to secure firearms in accordance with firearms storage requirements. The States and Territories are pursuing a number of initiatives to ensure licence holders are aware of the need to secure firearms properly and the consequences of not doing so.

A further more detailed study is currently being undertaken by the Australian Institute of Criminology into the theft of firearms. As part of this study, State and Territory police have been asked to complete a template for each firearm theft that occurs in the 6 months beginning 1 February, 2004. This research may highlight the need for further efforts in the area of storage, to prevent the diversion of firearms to the illicit market.

The handgun buyback and tighter controls on access to handguns has been accompanied by the development of national minimum standards for firearm safety training. A broad educational program on obligations and responsibilities relating to firearms has also been developed for sporting shooters, historical firearms collectors and medical professionals (in terms of reporting their concerns that a person may pose a danger if in possession of a firearm).

The "buyback" of automatic and semi-automatic long arms instituted in 1996, which recovered approximately 660,000 firearms from private individuals, was accompanied by firearms amnesties and other publicity measures to encourage firearms owners to surrender unregistered firearms.

The Australian Government maintains internet web sites in relevant agencies describing firearms measures it is taking at the domestic and international level. The Australian Government also conducts an Outreach Program that seeks to increase public awareness of export requirements.

Cooperation with Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations

The point of contact, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, meets formally with Australian NGO representatives once a year, in the context of the National Consultative Committee on Peace and Disarmament. The Committee was established by the Minister for Foreign Affairs as a channel for the exchange of information and views on disarmament and arms control issues between the Government and the community. The Committee considers and reports to the Minister on the execution of Government policies on arms control and disarmament, and maintains contact with individuals and groups interested in peace, arms control and disarmament issues.

The point of contact has consulted and worked with civil society in the hosting of regional workshops on the illicit trade in small arms (see regional initiatives). The point of contact and other coordinating agencies (such as Attorney-General's Department) are also responsible for liaising with interested NGOs and members of the public on an ad-hoc basis.

The Government has also established a Sporting Shooters and Firearms Advisory Council comprising representatives of sporting shooter groups, firearms dealers, security industry and collectors societies to provide advice on the implementation of the handgun reforms and other matters of firearms control. The council has ensured effective communication between Government and the firearms community.

REGIONAL MEASURES

Australia makes an important contribution to international efforts to address small arms through its regional capacity building and disarmament activities

Regional Cooperation and Capacity Building

Australia is committed to working with regional partners and civil society to address the challenge of small arms proliferation in the Asia-Pacific.

Australia provided USD 20,000 for a Pacific-wide Small Arms Survey, launched in Suva on 2 April, 2003. In 2004, Australia has contributed a further USD 30,000 for stage II of the Survey, which will measure perceptions of security and the impact of arms reduction interventions.

Australia participated in a sub-committee of the Pacific Islands Forum (South Pacific Chiefs of Police Conference), which developed a common regional approach to weapons control, focusing on the illicit manufacture of, and trafficking in, firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. This common approach has been encapsulated in a document called the Nadi Framework.

Japan and Australia co-hosted a seminar in January 2003 which examined the problems of small arms in the South Pacific. The seminar built on discussions at a similar workshop in Brisbane in May 2001. The workshop drew on Japan and Australia's own legislative, judicial and penal experiences covering the control of

small arms, police and defence practices. At this meeting, Pacific Island countries agreed to move forward with the development of model legislation. The model Weapons Control Bill was endorsed by Pacific Island leaders at the Pacific Island Forum in Auckland in August 2003. Australia played an active role in efforts to develop model legislation, including by providing financial support and hosting regional meetings to consider and review the model legislation and other practical initiatives.

In July 2004, Australia, Japan and the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, will co-host a workshop focusing on the UN Program of Action and the implementation of the model Weapons Control Bill.

As part of the follow up, personnel from the Australian Defence Force have been assisting Pacific Island Countries to strengthen armoury security through additional physical and procedural measures and training of personnel in armoury management, particularly with respect to small arms accounting procedures. Australia has built seven armouries for the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF), destroyed surplus weapons and ammunition for the PNGDF and Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, and sponsored upgrades to physical security at the main police armoury in the Solomon Islands and armouries in Vanuatu. Australia has also built an armoury in Samoa, and is in the process of building a new armoury in Fiji.

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programmes

Through AusAID (the Australian Agency for International Development), Australia funds many projects which address the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected communities, particularly in our region. These have included demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants – including child soldiers - into productive civilian life at the end of armed conflict in Sri Lanka, Bougainville and Philippines (Mindanao); assistance with demobilisation of special constables in the Solomon Islands; contributions to reconstruction in East Timor; and support for region-wide efforts to combat Small Arms proliferation, promotion and assistance with post-conflict reconstruction (Cambodia, Bougainville, Solomon Islands); reform and capacity-building of police, judicial and penal systems in the region (East Timor, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea); assistance to promote respect for international humanitarian law regarding the use of small arms (Rwanda, Burundi); and counter-terrorism capacity building (Indonesia, Philippines and regionally).

Bougainville: Australia continues to make a substantial contribution to the peace process on Bougainville. In 2001, four years after the initial truce, the parties signed the Bougainville Peace Agreement, a comprehensive settlement that includes a weapons disposal plan, a referendum on Bougainville's future status, and a greater degree of autonomy in the meantime, as its three pillars.

Australia has provided critical support to the parties and the UN Observer Mission on Bougainville in implementing the weapons disposal plan. This has resulted in the containment of around 2000 small arms, more than three-quarters of which have now been destroyed.

Through its aid program Australia has also provided a range of opportunities for ex-combatants to reintegrate into society by engaging in productive, income-generating activities.

Solomon Islands: Serious security, economic and social problems have debilitated Solomon Islands since ethnic conflict broke out in the late 1990s. While fighting largely ended with the signing of the Townsville Peace Agreement in October 2000, many militants retained access to high-powered weapons which they used to intimidate decision-makers and extort government funds. By early 2003 the economy had virtually collapsed, living standards were in steep decline and the Government had ceased to function effectively.

Following a formal request from the Solomon Islands Government (SIG), Australia led the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) that arrived in Solomon Islands on 24 July 2003. The Mission consists of a policing effort with military back-up to provide security for RAMSI personnel and logistics support and a large development cooperation component.

RAMSI's first priority was to restore law and order. In working closely with the Solomon Islands Government, the Mission achieved the following:

- The passage of legislation creating an amnesty for the hand-in of illegal firearms.
- The subsequent surrender or confiscation of over 3,700 illegal firearms. (Firearms included modern automatic, semi-automatic, pistols, shot guns and home made weapons. In addition more than 306,700 ammunition rounds were handed in.)

Australia has also provided support to the indigenous National Peace Council (NPC) to restore peace and stability.

In addition, Australia provided the Solomon Islands Government with policy input and legislative assistance, on implementing the Pacific Island Forum's model Weapons Control Bill.

East Timor: Australia is also making a concerted contribution to reconstruction and infrastructure development in East Timor, including through a small grant and financial consultant to the newly established Reception, Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

As part of INTERFET's operations, the Australian Defence Force seized weapons which were then stored securely. When INTERFET operations ceased and UNTAET assumed responsibility for the administration of East Timor, the seized weapons were handed over to UNTAET for destruction.

Regional Mechanisms to Promote Information Sharing

The Australian Customs Service, the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Defence Force co-operate closely with their counterparts within the region on these issues.

GLOBAL LEVEL

The Australian Government places a high priority on preventing the illicit trade in small arms. Its strong domestic polices and legislation complement Australia's support for regional and international initiatives such as the Programme of Action.

International Instruments

Australia is a signatory to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

Problems Encountered in the Implementation of the Programme of Action

Australia has not yet ratified the UN Firearms Protocol. The Australian Federal Government is currently consulting with States and Territories about Australia's obligations under the Protocol and necessary legislative reforms/amendments to bring Australia into line with obligations under the Protocol.

Australia has improved national small arms export reporting, with a view to enhancing the transparency of small arms exports. Export reports in future will include a specific category outlining the value and quantity of small arms exports.

A lesson derived in the process of reforming firearms laws in Australia's complex federal system was the need for a strong consultative and coordination mechanism with policy strength to promote, elicit support and assist with the implementation of reform measures. Also important was the establishment of an advisory council, comprising community representatives, as part of a broad consultation process.

Information Sharing

Effective legislation and enforcement measures are a priority of the Australian Government's firearms reforms. The Australian Government welcomes the opportunity to share information on its current legislation and policy developments with other countries considering similar control measures.

Further Information

Attorney General's Department: Firearms Unit

<http://www.ag.gov.au/www/criminaljusticeHome.nsf/HeadingPagesDisplay/Firearms?OpenDocument>

NSW Firearms legislation:

http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/fa1996102/

Victoria Firearms Act (1996)

http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/fa1996102/

http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/fa1998182/

http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/ffa1996279/

Firearms/Trafficking and handgun controls 2003:

<http://www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au/pdocs/bills/B01368/index.html>

Western Australian Firearms Act:

http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/wa/consol_act/fa1973102/

Department of Defence : Export Controls

http://www.defence.gov.au/dmo/DMO/export_controls.cfm