



Media Brief

27 November 2016

Record Number of Firearms Stolen Across Australia

Statistics obtained by Gun Control Australia (GCA) under freedom of information laws reveal that a record number of firearms - 6451- have been stolen over a two-year period (2014 and 2015).

This is the largest number of firearms theft since the Australian Institute of Criminology published the last lot of figures on firearm theft in 2011. The last publication on firearm theft published by the Australian Institute of Criminology found that 1,712 firearm were stolen in 2007-08.¹

The state of Victoria (1,451) had the largest number of firearms stolen, followed closely by New South Wales (1,406) and then Western Australia (1,322).

Jurisdiction	No. stolen Year 2013-14	No. stolen Year 2014-15	Total
VIC	707	744	1451
NSW	682	724	1406
WA	423	899	1322
QLD	591	620	1211
SA	246	262	508
TAS	231	258	489
*NT	17	17	34
ACT	12	18	30
Total	2909	3542	6451

*Note: The Northern Territory does not provide stolen firearm data available via freedom of Information. The NT figure is AV average taken from data on stolen firearms from

All jurisdictions were requested to provide data on; type of firearm stolen, location and category. However, due to the lack of consistency in the collection of data and availability of resources across jurisdictions not all states could provide the requested information.

Only Queensland, South Australia and New South Wales were able to provide data on the

¹Samantha Bricknell, 2011. 'Firearms Theft in Australia 2008-09, Australia Institute of Criminology.

Gun Control Australia (Inc.)

Telephone: 0418491459

GPO Box 254, Newtown

NSW 2042 AUSTRALIA

guncontrolaus@gmail.com



category of the firearm stolen. In all three jurisdictions around 70 per cent of all firearms stolen were category A and category B. Category A and B firearms are general recreational hunting rifles and shotguns. In 2015 there was a spike in the number of handguns stolen, but due the data only covering a two-year period, it is unclear whether this is concerning trend or just a one-off.

Regarding the location of where firearms were stolen from, only Queensland and New South Wales were able to provide such figures. These figures show that the majority of firearms are stolen from private homes.

Stolen firearms and New South Wales

A total of 1406 firearms have been stolen across New South Wales in a two-year period (2014 and 2015). The large majority of firearms stolen have been hunting rifles (category A) followed by general hunting shotguns (category B).

NSW: Category of firearm stolen

	financial year 2014	financial year 2015
category A & B	444	442
category A	176	186
category H	25	62
Prohibited item	22	17
other	15	15
category D	0	2
category C	0	0

The majority of firearms stolen were taken from private homes (500) and then rural dwellings (194).

The number of firearm incidents data reveals that in a number of cases more than one firearm is being stolen per theft incident.

Financial year	2014	2015
Number of incidents with 1 firearm stolen	107	90
Number of incidents with 2-9 firearm stolen	133	142
Number of incident with more than 10 firearm stolen	5	7



Storage of firearm in Australia

State and Territory laws prescribe the safe keeping of firearms in the home. The level of storage requirement relates to the category of firearm/s required to be stored.

Owners of registered firearms are required to notify police of lost or stolen firearms within a prescribed time period.

Police are required undertake random checks of storage of firearms, however limited policing resources means this may not be occurring at regular intervals.

Recovery of stolen firearms

Although this data did not obtain figures on the number of stolen firearms recovered by police, the Australian Institute of Criminology has reported that as little as 12-13 per cent of firearms are recovered. ²

Comments by Samantha Lee

"With a record number of gun thefts it is clear governments have seriously been neglecting the alarm rate at which guns are being stolen from private homes and the flow of this guns into the illicit gun market."

"In 2015 the Australian Crime Commission told a Senate inquiry into gun violence that "theft remains a primary method of diverting firearms to the illicit market" and although there was some evidence of of illegal importing, "ACC data indicate that these comprise a small proportion of all firearms diverted into the black market."

"Gun theft is major issue, yet the government keeps telling us that illegal importing of firearms in the problem. The problem is right in front of us, in fact possibly right next door to us."

Gun Control Australia is calling for:

- A toughening of storage requirement regulations for firearms making it compulsory to install an alarm system that calls a security company compulsory.
- Limit the number of firearms per licence holder so there are fewer guns being stored in the home

² 1 at pg. 29



- A commitment to a fully implemented National Firearm Interface system which is still after many years incomplete and under resourced. The NFI allows for a wholistic tracing of firearms and nationally consistent collection of firearm data which is still not available
- A reinstatement of funding for the National Firearms Theft Program at the Australian Institute of Criminology. In 2011 this program was defunded even though it provided invaluable reporting about the theft of firearms in Australia.

Premiers to meet at COAG in December

On 9 December 2016, the state premiers will be attending a COAG meeting to finalise the review of the National Firearms Agreement (NFA) and decide the fate of the two Adler A110 model shotguns.

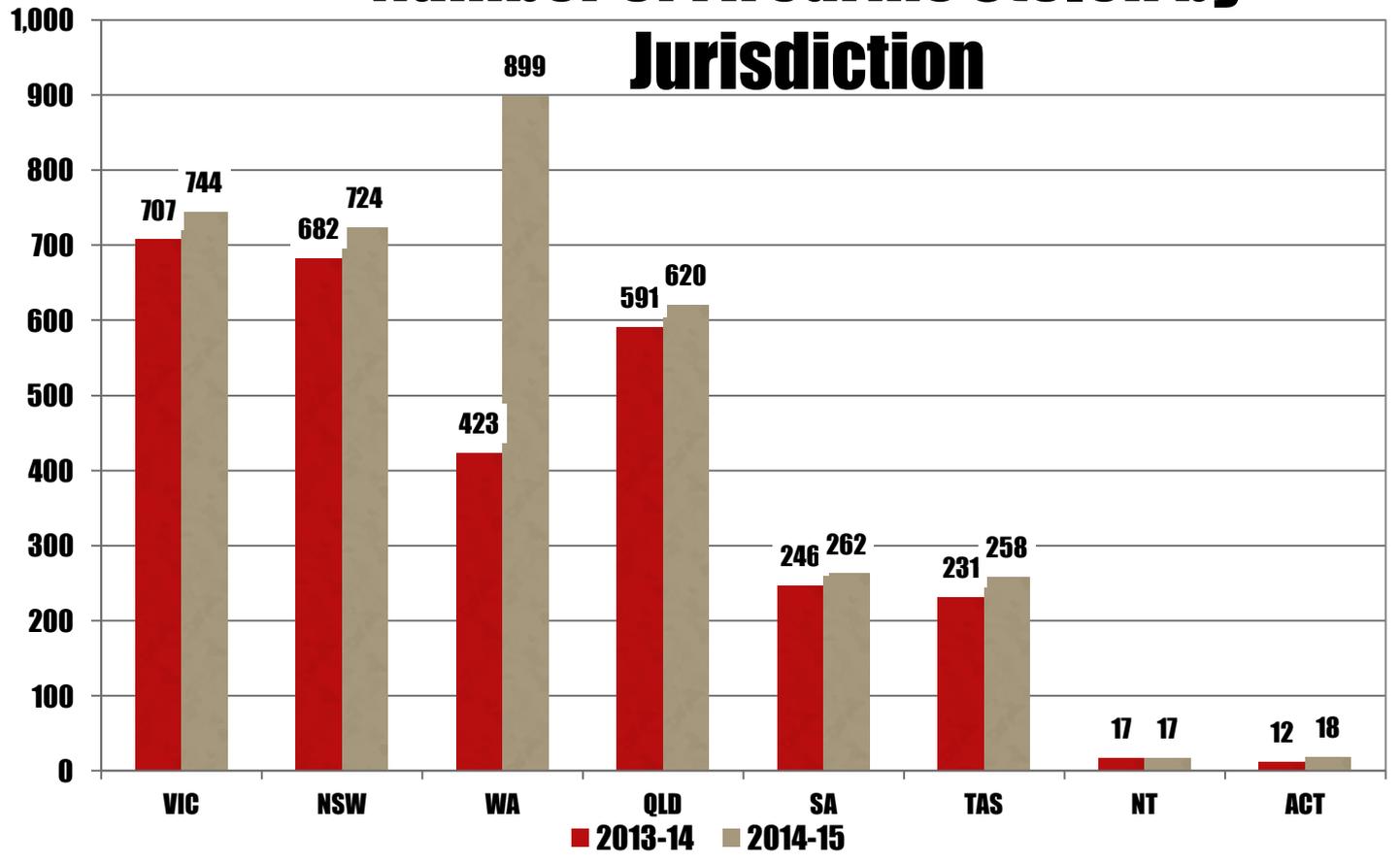
So far the jurisdictions have not be able to agree on the classification of the Alders.

It has been proposed by some state police ministers that the Adler A110 6 shot should be recategorised from a cat A to a cat B and the 8 shot Adler A110 categorised as a cat D.

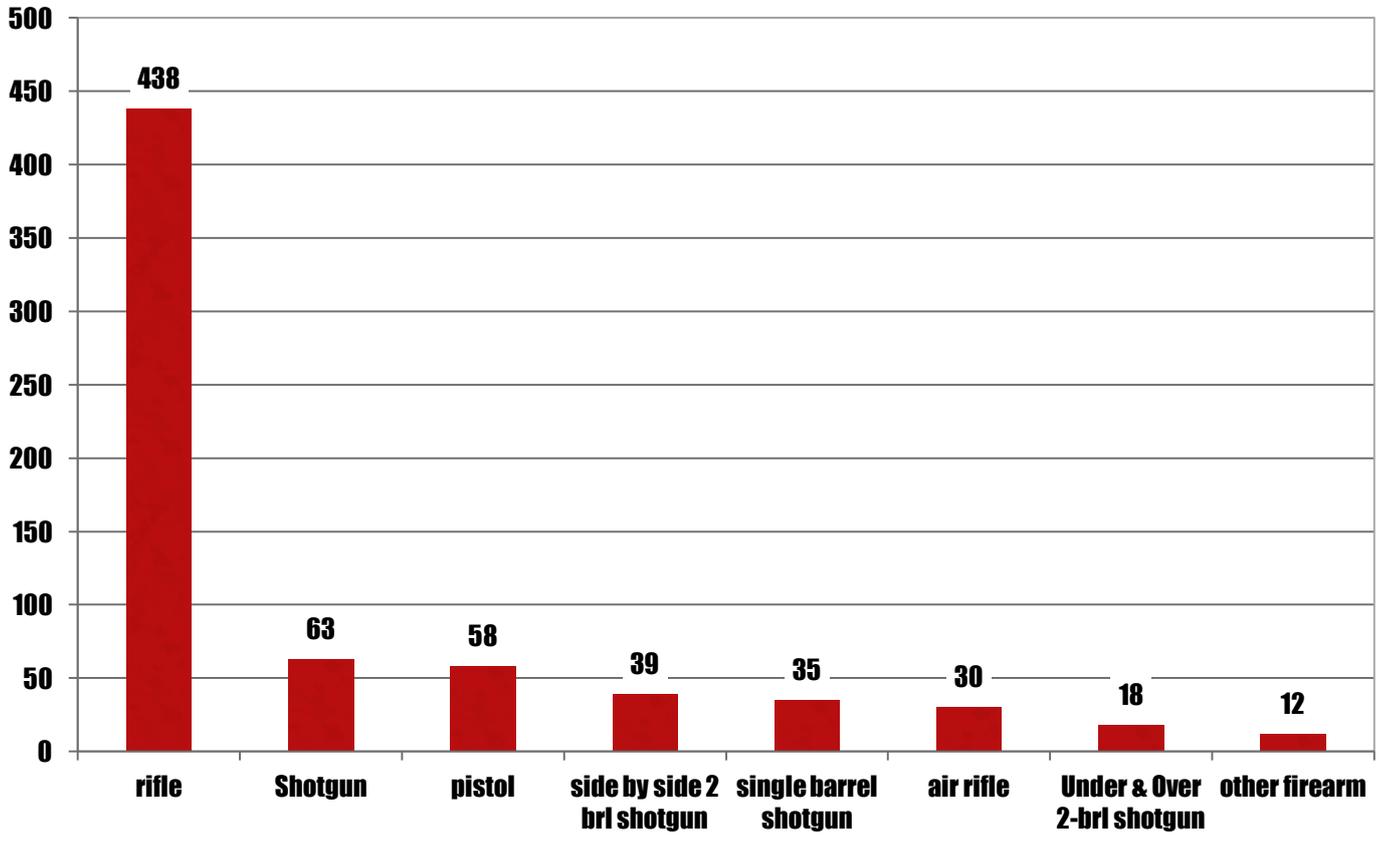
GCA is of the view the stolen firearm figures should cause the state premiers some major concerns about classifying a rapid firearm as a category B (general hunting firearm) because these firearms are widely stolen and will inevitable move into the illicit market.

GCA wants the 6 shot to be made a category C and the 8 shot banned. The stolen firearm figures show that category C and D firearms are stolen significantly less than category A and B.

Number of Firearms Stolen by Jurisdiction



Number of Stolen Firearms NSW 2014-2015 - Top 8 Types



Number of Firearms Stolen in NSW 2014-2015 by Location of Theft

