



# Submission cover sheet

## Inquiry into the Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Bill 2026

Submission number: 003

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**From:** [LA Committee - Legal](#)  
**To:** [LA Committee - Legal](#)  
**Subject:** Submission Re: Inquiry into Firearms (Public Safety) Amendment Bill 2026  
**Date:** Tuesday, 17 February 2026 1:24:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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Hello,

My name is CJ Adams, I am a data analyst with a research focus in Firearm Policy.

This legislative body should work to further address the rise in firearm prevalence and the many horrors Australia will and has already faced as a result of stagnated firearm legislation. Firearms are dangerous, and they are dangerous in a myriad of ways that affect firearm owners, non-owner civilians, and police officers. And while there are many justifiable reasons to own a firearm in some circumstances, most are not applicable to the ACT nor worth the consequences. Australia need only look to the US to get a glimpse of the worst of these consequences. While Australia is not the United States - where  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Americans are armed, Gun ownership has risen steadily since 1996, and with it, increased arrests, injuries, and deaths.

1.

Guns are dangerous in households.

Firearm deaths are the leading cause of childhood deaths – as well as injury – in the US. 30% of all firearm deaths in 2022 were of children between 15-17. Many of the firearms involved were unsecured household firearms – loaded, kept in an unlocked safe with no trigger lock. Over half of youth firearm deaths were suicides and many others were accidental discharges.

Firearms are incredibly present in intimate partner violence (IPV). 70% of all IPV deaths in the US involve a firearm, and firearms are either used, or threatened to be used in 1.6% of all incidents of IPV.

The links between Firearms and Suicides is well documented. As much as the ACT can do to put time and distance between individuals and firearm can dramatically decrease firearm suicides, which are a significant portion of youth firearm deaths in the US.

2.

Guns are stolen, a lot.

Firearms in the US are manufactured legally, and distributed legally, sold and then purchased – often many times – legally, all well before a firearm is used in a crime. A

gun may spend its entire existence legal up until it is used for illegal purposes, however, most firearms used in crimes have been stolen at least once, or at least sold and resold illegally. Firearms are often stolen from cars, licensed dealers, and houses. In a morbidly ironic twist, increased concealed handgun permits are linked to increased crime victimizations – mostly gun thefts – and subsequent increases in neighborhood violent crime. House Burglaries also rise when neighborhood gun ownership rises. Guns are valuable, stolen guns even more so. This is the reason bad guys have guns. Restrictions stop this pipeline.

3.

Guns are dangerous to police officers, and therefore dangerous to civilians.

Firearms are responsible for the vast majority of the homicides of Police officers in the US. The rate of firearm related fatalities of Police Officers is also tied to the level of gun control in the state. The plurality of these fatalities are associated with domestic disturbance calls. The threat firearms pose to Police officers poisons the relationship police officers have with the public. Increased firearm prevalence leads to increased police use-of-force, use-of-lethal-force and subject injury/fatalities.

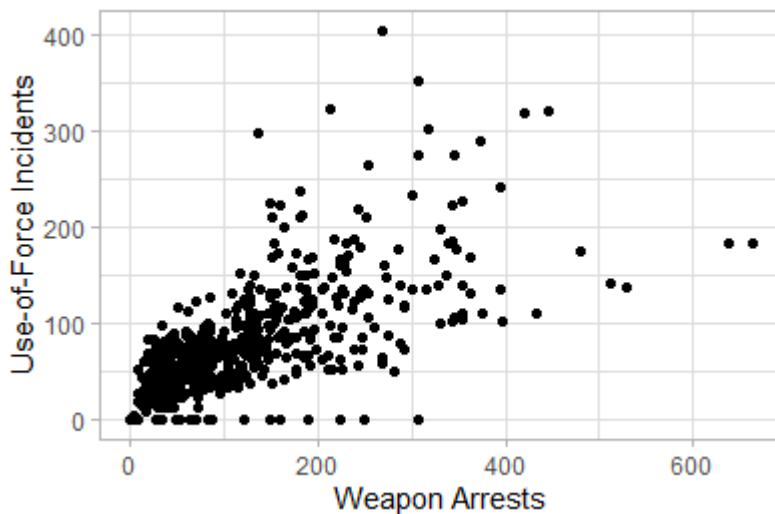


Figure notes: This figure shows the raw correlations between use-of-force incidents and weapons arrests at the precinct level between 2017 and 2024. Each point represents once precinct-year observation, A weapons arrest constitutes an arrest in a precinct under New York Penal Code Article 265 Firearms and Other Dangerous Weapons (New York Penal Law Ch. 40, Part 3, Title P). Police use-of-force are incidents of force used by NYPD Members of Service including both physical force and firearms discharges. These concepts are described in greater detail in Appendix A. New York City has 77 precincts

4.

Firearms are also strongly correlated to dangerous crime

In New York City, there is a clear and direct correlation between firearm prevalence and police use-of-force as well as Firearms and dangerous crimes.

Table 2: Correlation Matrix for Arrest Types and Use of Force, 2017-2024

Arrest Type	Other Characteristics
	Use-
	Shooting of-

Arrest/Characteristic	Weapon	Drug	Robbery	Burglary	Assault	Total	Incidents	Force	Black
Weapon Arrest	1.00	0.55	0.62	0.34	0.76	0.75	0.66	0.67	0.80
Drug Arrest	0.55	1.00	0.51	0.45	0.55	0.74	0.26	0.43	0.60
Robbery Arrest	0.62	0.51	1.00	0.54	0.84	0.77	0.51	0.65	0.65
Burglary Arrest	0.34	0.45	0.54	1.00	0.40	0.66	0.10	0.21	0.54
Assault Arrest	0.76	0.55	0.84	0.40	1.00	0.84	0.59	0.80	0.70
Total Arrests	0.75	0.74	0.77	0.66	0.84	1.00	0.38	0.61	0.82
Shooting Incidents	0.66	0.26	0.51	0.10	0.59	0.38	1.00	0.61	0.54
Use-of-Force	0.67	0.43	0.65	0.21	0.80	0.61	0.61	1.00	0.61
Black	0.80	0.60	0.65	0.54	0.70	0.82	0.54	0.61	1.00

*Table Notes:* This correlation matrix is drawn from arrest, shooting incident and use-of-force data from 2017-2024 aggregated by precinct and year. This matrix includes 5 categories of arrests: weapon arrests, drug arrests, robbery arrests, burglary arrests, and assault arrests. The matrix also includes correlations with the total level of precinct arrests. Lastly, the correlation matrix measures the correlations with shooting incidents, use-of-force and the arrests of Black subjects.

## 5. What Should the ACT Do

Australia must be serious about a national arms registry, which still hasn't been implemented. The absolutely abysmal firearm record keeping is responsible for months long tracing backlogs in the US, if a firearm can even be traced at all. Australia must continue to be serious about licenses. Hunting licenses should only go to those who are actually hunting, and only for specific weapons – hand guns are not needed to kill a boar, and individuals do not need a shed full of firearms to hunt either. Lastly, regulations must be universal. Guns cross state borders all the time in the US completely undermining state regulations. Australia should learn from the American firearm epidemic and avoid following the path that the US has gone down.

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