

## Estimates Committee 2003 Questions Taken On Notice

( 01/10/2002 to 01/10/2004 )

Date: 06/26/2003 Output:  
Sub Output:  
Subject: Compensation for Handgun Buy-back

**From:** Mr BURKE to Honourable Paul HENDERSON  
Minister for Police Fire and Emergency Services

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### 5-3

**Question:** Will the police proceed to issue registers to purchase for those who legitimately were able to have handguns registered prior to the uncertainty surrounding the buy-back legislation, so that those persons who normally would have been legitimately authorised to purchase during that uncertain period can then be eligible for compensation in the buy-back?

### Answer:

Answered On: 06/27/2003

Answer: As a consequence of the planning activities leading up to the buyback, there has been a process adopted within the NT Firearm Registry where persons who were considering buying firearms which were not likely to meet the requirements of the recently passed legislation were dealt with. That process was to advise those individuals of what we believed would be the likely outcome that should they proceed, the firearm may eventually get caught up in the buy back. The individual was neither encouraged nor discouraged from seeking a purchase permit for the weapon, simply given the best possible advice about their options. In some cases, they continued with the purchase, in others they did not.

In one very recent case, a person in Alice Springs is seeking to purchase a firearm that will be prohibited to sporting shooters for the purpose of exporting the firearm to the United States. For various reasons, the firearm itself happens to be in the hands of the Police Force. The matter is still being processed but the potential buyer will be given advice on the outcomes as they relate to this particular firearm. If the buyer seeks to continue with the purchase, and meets all the legislative requirements, they will be provided with a purchase permit and informed that the firearm must be exported from this country by a certain date in order to avoid being caught up in the buy-back. This process must be completed before 1 July 2003.