

FIREARMS — LICENCES

367. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the Firearms Amendment Regulations 2013.

- (1) What is the total estimated cost of administering the firearms licensing system in a full year?
- (2) How many firearms licences are on issue in Western Australia?
- (3) Compared with other Australian jurisdictions, why is there such a remarkable difference in the cost and processing time of obtaining a firearms licence, or adding an additional firearm to an existing licence?
- (4) What is the police department doing to reduce this glaring disparity?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The annual cost of administering the current firearm licensing system is \$6 million.
- (2) As at 20 June 2013, 81 711 firearm licences are on issue. Actual firearms licensed by those licences total 270 392.
- (3) It is difficult to make a direct comparison with other jurisdictions' fees due to the following: licensing procedures and legislative requirements vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction; the structure of the fees is likely to be significantly different between jurisdictions due to differences in processes and methodologies used in developing their costings; WA Police does not know the extent of cost recovery achieved by other jurisdictions—it is possible that other jurisdictions' fees do not achieve full cost recovery; and the term of each licence type is unique to each agency.
- (4) WA Police will continue with its current practice of full cost recovery. However, the Minister for Police has written to the Attorney General—that is me—requesting that the Law Reform Commission conduct a review of the Firearms Act.