

**Question on Notice
No 1125
Asked on 29 September 2004**

MS NELSON-CARR asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (MS SPENCE)-

QUESTION:

Will she give details of the number of firearms which have been surrendered or registered in the Townsville region and North Queensland since the amnesty began this year?

ANSWER:

The firearms amnesty is being held in Queensland to allow people to surrender illegal or unwanted firearms without penalty.

While the public will not be compensated for their weapons, under the terms of the amnesty, people will not be prosecuted for possessing firearms illegally if they surrender those firearms to police.

The amnesty also gives people the chance to register an unlicensed firearm onto their weapon's licence, subject to holding the appropriate licence conditions.

For the period 1 July to 30 September 2004, in the Northern Region (covering Townsville and Mt Isa Districts) 68 firearms have been surrendered and 153 firearms registered.

In the Far Northern Region (covering Mareeba, Innisfail and Cairns Districts) 88 firearms have been surrendered and 122 firearms registered.

A dedicated hotline has been set up to provide information about the amnesty. The Firearms Amnesty Information Line 1300 789 440 will operate from 8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday until the end of the amnesty.

During the six-month amnesty, illegal firearms can be surrendered to any Queensland Police Station and firearms can be handed in anonymously.

The firearm amnesty will run until December 31.