



Permits to acquire firearms

What is happening?

The Firearms Policy and Recording Unit is continually reviewing business processes to ensure compliance with legislative requirements. It has been identified that the requirements of the Northern Territory *Firearms Act 1997* ('the Act') have not been strictly adhered to when issuing purchase permits to acquire a second or subsequent firearm.

There has been no risk to community safety as a result of this incorrect business process.

Background

A permit to purchase or acquire a firearm must comply with section 35 of the Act. Section 35(4) of the Act states that the Commissioner **is not** to issue a permit to purchase or acquire a firearm within 28 days of the application for the permit being made. This is also a requirement of the National Firearms Agreement.

However, section 35(5) of the Act states that the Commissioner **may** grant a permit in less than 28 days where the following requirements are met:

- (a) The person:
 - i. holds a licence and owns a registered firearm; **and**
 - ii. has established a **genuine need** for owning the firearm to be purchased or acquired; **and**
- (b) the prescribed checks have been completed.


Previously applicants may have been granted a permit to purchase or acquire a second or subsequent firearm in less than 28 days without having established a genuine need to own that particular firearm. That business practice was not in compliance with section 35 of the Act, and has since ceased.

What does this mean for me?

If you are applying for a permit to acquire or purchase a firearm, and would like the Commissioner to consider issuing the permit in less than 28 days, you will be required to supply sufficient evidence to establish that you have a genuine need to own that firearm. Genuine need is not the same as the genuine reason for which your licence was granted.

To establish a genuine need you will be required to show that the ownership of that firearm is essential or necessary. Simply wanting another firearm is not sufficient.

If you are able to establish a satisfactory genuine need, the application may be processed in less than 28 days, provided that the prescribed checks do not reveal any difficulties in issuing the permit.



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If you are unable to sufficiently establish a genuine need to own the firearm, the application will be processed as per the legislated requirements and be issued after the expiry of the 28 day period, providing that the prescribed checks do not reveal any difficulties in issuing the permit.

Contact

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