

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

**Circulated by the authority of  
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ACT GOVERNMENT

## **FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996**

### **OUTLINE**

The object of the proposed Act is to ensure that the payment of compensation for surrendered prohibited firearms is in accordance with nationally agreed values

This Bill gives legislative force to the schedule of values for surrendered prohibited firearms which was prepared for the Commonwealth by an expert group based on published values as at 1 March 1996 and was subsequently endorsed by all police ministers

### **DETAILS OF THE BILL**

#### **Short title and Commencement**

Clauses 1 & 2 These clauses specify the name of the proposed Act and provide for the commencement of sections 1, 2 and 3 on the day it is notified in the Gazette and the remaining provisions on the day on which Part XII of the Principal Act commences

#### **Principal Act**

Clause 3 This is the Firearms Act 1996

**Insertion**

Clause 4 This provides for the following sections to be inserted in the Principal Act

**Amnesty**

This section provides for an amnesty in respect of proceedings against a person who surrenders a prohibited firearm before the period ending 30 September 1997

**Compensation**

This section provides that compensation will be payable if the firearm was legally held on 16 May 1996 and was surrendered before 1 October 1997

The amount of compensation payable will be in accordance with the Schedule of firearms values attached to the Bill unless

- legal proceedings were commenced before 14 April 1997 and the court determines a value for the firearm, in which case that amount will be paid, or
- the value of the firearm set out in the Schedule exceeds \$2,500, the firearm has been significantly modified, or the firearm is not listed on the Schedule, in which case the amount will be determined by the Chief Executive, Attorney-General's Department

**Insertion**

Clause 5 This inserts the Schedule of prohibited firearms' values in the Principal Act