

## FACT SHEET: FIREARMS THEFT IN AUSTRALIA III

- Over a 12 month period (2005-2006), 634 incidents of firearms theft (1445 firearms) were reported to police.
- This represents a decline from 2004-2005 (665 incidents).
- The number stolen represents 0.05% of the total number of registered firearms in Australia.
- The overall risk of firearms theft is low.
- 60% of firearms stolen were rifles, followed by shotguns (26%), handguns (5%), and air rifles (9%).
- The majority of rifle/shotgun thefts occurred from residential premises.
- In contrast, almost one in four handgun thefts (23%) was from a business.
- Ammunition was stolen in 23% of incidents.
- 59% of thefts occurred in conjunction with the theft of other, non-firearm goods. This may indicate an element of opportunism.
- There were five incidents where a stolen firearm was identified as being used in a subsequent crime.
- It appears that only a small number of firearms from theft incidents (0.8%) were diverted for use in illegal activities.
- Offenders (those found to have stolen the firearms) were prosecuted in 14% of incidents.

### Reference:

Bricknell, S., & Mouzos, J. (2007). *Firearms theft in Australia 2005-2006. Research and Public Policy Series No. 82, Australian Institute of Criminology.* <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/82/>