

Information Sheet

Advice regarding 5 year handgun disqualification period

Persons who exited the sport of handgun target shooting at the Handgun Buyback of 2003 (i.e. surrendered their handgun/s and received compensation) are disqualified from applying for a General Category Handgun licence for a period of 5 years.

Licensing Services Division provides the following advice to those persons who may be considering taking up the sport again after the conclusion of the 5 year disqualification period. The disqualification period ends June – December 2008 (depending on the actual date the surrender occurred).

Persons who wish to take up the sport again may lodge an [application for a General Category Handgun Licence](#) **once their 5 year prohibition period has concluded**. Applications for a Provisional Handgun Licence will not be accepted as these applications are only suitable for first-time applicants to the sport.

Prior to lodging an application for a General Category Handgun Licence, the following requirements must be met otherwise the application will be refused:

- The 5 year disqualification period must have concluded;
- Must have been a member of an approved handgun target shooting club for a period of at least six months preceding the application
- Must have the application endorsed by that club;
- Undertake a course in handgun safety in the previous 12 months;
- Must have your fingerprints taken again if you previously requested that they be destroyed;
- Provide 100 points of identification (unless you have a current licence of another type); and
- Demonstrate that you are not a prohibited person and that you remain a fit and proper person to hold such a licence.

Prior to the 5 year disqualification period ending, persons are not prevented from becoming or remaining a member of an approved handgun target shooting club or undertaking a safety course in support of their licence application. They may also receive instruction in the use of general category handguns for the purposes of determining whether to continue in the sport and obtain a licence provided that they have not exceeded the requirement to receive instruction on no more than 10 separate occasions.

Important notes:

1. Pursuant to section 17(ca) of the *Firearms Act 1996*, the 5 year disqualification period does not apply to persons who wish to obtain a General Category Handgun Licence for occupational purposes. That is to say that these persons do not have to wait for the expiry of the 5 year disqualification period to apply for a General Category Handgun licence for a reason other than handgun target shooting.

2. New firearms licences have a mandatory legislated 28 day waiting period from the date of receipt of the application to the issue of the licence in accordance with s.33 of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

3. Handgun target shooters who possess (own) handguns will be subject to the participation conditions specified in the application form. Licence holders are also required to remain a member of an approved handgun target shooting club during the term of the licence.