

FIREARMS — STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

585. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police:

The WA Police “Firearm Storage Requirements” fact sheet boldly states —

NEVER leave a firearm unattended in a car. It is an offence to do so.

- (1) Under which section of the Firearms Act 1973 is it an offence to leave an unloaded firearm unattended in a locked car?
- (2) What is the penalty for doing so?
- (3) Is the minister aware of the WA Police booklet entitled “Firearm Safety and Usage”, which describes itself as a basic guide to Western Australian firearm laws and safe firearm practices for shooters?
- (4) Is the minister aware that point 15 of the WA Police publication clearly states that although leaving a firearm in a locked vehicle should be avoided, firearms should be unloaded and out of sight when left unattended in a locked vehicle?
- (5) How many licensed firearm owners have been prosecuted for leaving unloaded firearms secured in an unattended car in accordance with the WA Police’s “Firearm Safety and Usage” guidelines?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Police, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) There is no specific offence under the Firearms Act 1973 for leaving an unloaded firearm unattended in a locked motor vehicle. However, section 23(9) of the act prescribes general offences, in which failing or omitting to take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safekeeping of a firearm is included.
- (2) The penalty for an offence under section 23(9)(a) of the act is a fine of \$2 000 for a first offence and imprisonment for 12 months, or a fine of \$4 000 for a subsequent offence.
- (3)–(4) Yes.
- (5) The data is not available in the time frame available and further research would need to be conducted to ascertain whether the specific data requested could be obtained.