

News Release

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Hon John Rau

Deputy Premier

Attorney-General

Hon Jennifer Rankine

Minister for Police

Wednesday, 1 August 2012

THREE-MONTH GUN AMNESTY BEGINS TODAY

The State Government and the South Australia Police have encouraged owners of unregistered, illegal or unwanted firearms to take advantage of the three-month firearms amnesty which begins today.

Owners of unregistered, illegal or unwanted firearms are urged to hand them in to any police station between Wednesday 1 August and Wednesday 31 October.

“Every gun out of circulation means a safer community” Attorney-General John Rau said.

“Any South Australian possessing an unregistered or illegal firearm is breaking the law. Penalties for possessing an unregistered or illegal firearm are very high — up to \$50,000 or imprisonment for up to 10 years.

“The three-month amnesty is a chance for anyone with an unregistered, illegal or unwanted firearm to hand it in without fear of penalty or retribution.”

Police Minister Jennifer Rankine warned that people who do not act during the amnesty face serious consequences.

“The State Government is working hard to promote this amnesty, to ensure everyone knows about this window of opportunity to make our community safer,” she said.

Police Commissioner Gary Burns said he encouraged everyone to think about firearms that they may not realise are a potential problem – such as inherited guns, or old guns that are never used.

“All firearms are at risk of being stolen, and falling into the wrong hands.”

“With every unregistered firearm surrendered during the amnesty, South Australians are that much safer.” he said.

The amnesty is being promoted with radio and online advertisements, advertisements in The Advertiser and regional press as well as via local councils with posters being distributed across the State. Reminders will also be posted on the SA Police News Twitter feed and Facebook page with more information on the SAPOL website.

The last South Australian amnesty focused on imitation firearms and was held from October-December 2009. For more information visit www.police.sa.gov.au or call 1800 071 507.
