

# Firearms Pānui

The latest firearms information

Te Tari Pūreke Partnerships - Firearms Pānui | November 2025

Kia ora,

**In this edition of the Firearms Pānui you can find:**

- Licence to chill - community in action
- High demand impacting 0800 services
- Licensing demand creating delays
- High demand for import and visitor permits
- Unlawful hunting, serious offence
- Firearms safety: secure storage this Summer
- Keep up to date with the latest numbers

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## **Licence to chill - community in action**

*The Partnerships team recently joined Te Awanui a Rua Charitable Trust in the Winterslow Range in Canterbury to find out more about their hunting training initiative.*

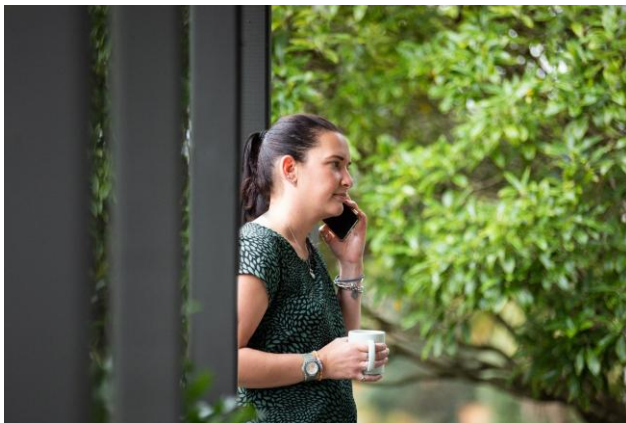
While in Canterbury, we engaged with:

- The McLeans Island Shooting Club
- Jaye Pukepuke, founder of Bros for Change and member of the [Māori Firearms Forum](#)
- Tim Tipple, from Gun City.

Our primary reason for going south was to see the mahi done by Te Awanui a Rua Charitable Trust. Anahera Hose does great work with young and not-so-young people in the hunter training space, as well as outdoor pursuits more generally. She blends this with hearty doses of tikanga and Māoritanga. We were very impressed with the kaupapa and the way it was run.

The professionalism and the commitment to firearms safety and responsible firearms use demonstrated by every organisation we visited stood out.

We also valued the insights and contributions these people were able to give to our business.



### **High demand impacting 0800 services**

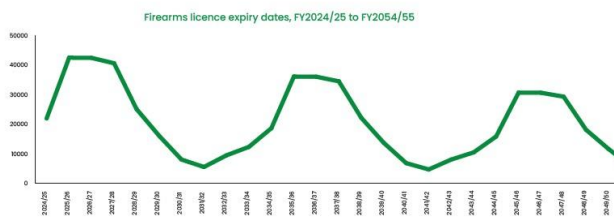
We're experiencing higher demand on our 0800 number, and it may take longer to reach our call centre team. Average wait times are currently 15 -20 minutes.

In September last year, we received around 8,825 calls from the firearms community. This September, that number almost doubled, climbing to 16,158.

We apologise for the delays and appreciate your patience while our team works hard to answer every call. If wait times are long, try calling later in the day when lines may be quieter.

If you need to register your firearms, this can be done online through MyFirearms. Visit our [‘How to register or update your information’](#) for step-by-step guidance on recording arms items or updating your licence details.

For general enquiries, see [firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz](https://firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz) for information and answers to common questions.



### Licensing demand creating delays

Licence applications have risen sharply, and processing times are longer than usual. This surge stems from the introduction of the 10-year licence. Many were issued around the same time, meaning large numbers are now expiring together.

In 2023/24 we issued 19,672 licences. Last year that rose to 25,119, a 27% increase. This year demand is tracking toward 30,000-35,000 applications. While our team is working hard, current resourcing cannot fully absorb this volume without affecting timeframes.

We are exploring ways to smooth out these high-demand peaks in the system. In the meantime, applying early helps both you and

us. If you apply for your renewal prior to the expiry date, you can continue to possess and use firearms and ammunition legally, irrespective of how long the renewal process takes.

Retailers can use our online [‘licence checker’](#) tool to confirm the current status of your firearms licence so you can continue to purchase firearms or ammunition.

Additionally, applications submitted before a licence expires cost \$126.50 and remain valid for 10 years, while expired-licence applications cost \$241.50 and are valid for five.

If you have already applied, please remain patient - we’ll contact you as your application progresses. For queries, email your local regional firearms office (details are on our website under [regional firearms office](#))

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## **High demand for import and visitor permits**

Our permits team manages both permits to import firearms and permits for visitors' licences for those coming to New Zealand to use firearms.

With many firearms events scheduled over the next year, attracting international visitors, visitor permit demand has surged. We've also seen that up to a third of import permits issued each year go unused. This combination is slowing processing times, and we expect higher volumes to continue into 2027.

If you're applying for a visitor permit, submit your application at least four months before your arrival. The team will contact you if more information is needed; otherwise, you'll hear from us closer to your travel date.

For import permits, to help us work efficiently, please:

- Submit separate applications for prohibited/restricted items, standard arms items, and ammunition.
- Add images of the firearms you're applying for -

especially uncommon models.

- Include a link to the manufacturer's website showing the exact model and variation.
- Apply separately if the firearm requires armoury approval.

Separate applications prevent delays, as some items require more assessment than others.

For queries, email [permitfirearms@police.govt.nz](mailto:permitfirearms@police.govt.nz). Please avoid calling our 0800 number- our call centre cannot provide permit updates.

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## Unlawful hunting, serious offence

The Authority recently supported Police in an operation targeting illegal hunting in North Canterbury. It uncovered a network of firearms licence holders who allegedly diverted firearms to unlicensed hunters and then attempted to cover their tracks through further offences against the Firearms Registry. Thirty-one firearms have been seized, and six firearms licence holders have had their licences suspended.

Executive Director Angela Brazier said “*We know that illegal hunting is a serious public safety concern in our rural communities. The majority of licence holders have no trouble complying with their Registry obligations and know the rules about keeping firearms out of the hands of unlicensed people who may go on to commit offences.*”

Read more here:

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/investigation-illegal-hunting-canterbury-uncovers-alleged-offending-firearms-licence-holders>

## Firearms safety



### Secure storage this Summer

As the weather warms up and holiday plans begin, take a moment to check your storage. Whether you're heading away or expecting visitors, make sure firearms and ammunition are securely stored when not in use.

A secure firearm is a safer firearm.

Read our [storage and transportation guidance](#) for tips.

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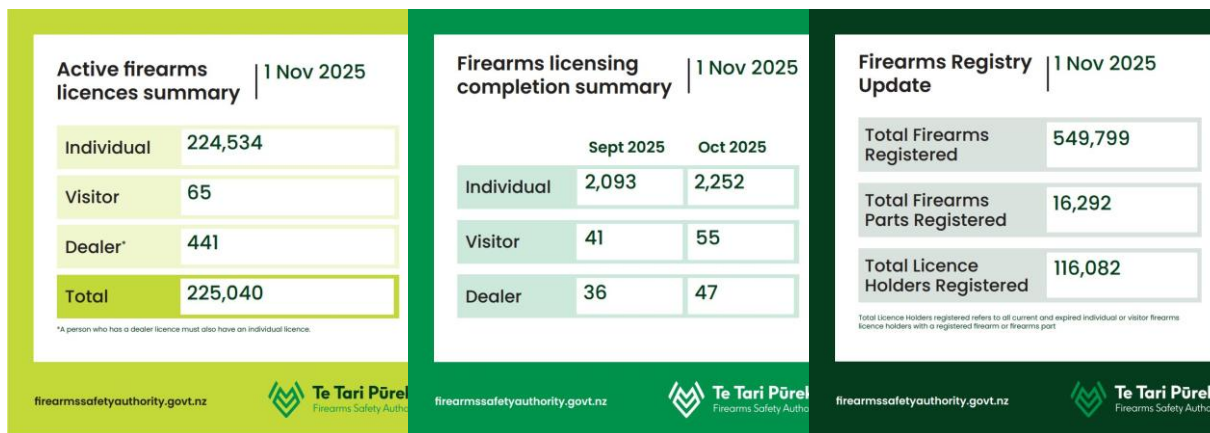
## Keep up to date on the latest numbers

On our website we proactively release firearms regulatory information to help people better understand features of the licence holder community, and aspects of the performance of New Zealand's firearms regulatory framework. We have provided a snapshot of this data below.

This section contains:

- Active firearms licences summary by type - Individual, Visitor and Dealer
- Firearms licensing completion summary - Individual, Visitor and Dealer. *This section now has the total number of licences completed in the given month, rather than a percentage, and broken down into different licence types.*
- Firearms Registry update - including total firearms, parts and licence holders registered

Find more information here: [Firearms data and public information | Firearms Safety Authority](#)



If you have feedback on this pānui or there is anything you would like to see in future editions, please email [firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz](mailto:firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz)

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