

Meeting minutes

27 November 2025

Arms Engagement Group (AEG)

9:30am – 12:30pm

Meeting details	27 November 2025 9:30am – 12:30pm
In attendance	<p>AEG members</p> <p>Jarrold Gilbert – <i>Independent Research Solutions</i></p> <p>Kiri Matiatos – <i>Family Violence Death Review, Health Quality & Safety Commission Te Tāhū Hauora</i></p> <p>Philippa Yasbek – <i>Gun Control NZ</i></p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke</p> <p>Mike McIlraith – <i>Director Partnerships</i></p> <p>Douglas Brett – <i>Senior Partnerships Advisor (chair)</i></p> <p>Ewan Kelsall – <i>Partnership Manager</i></p> <p>Matt Lambert – <i>Partnership Manager - Iwi</i></p> <p>Mike Tarttelin – <i>Clubs & Ranges Manager</i></p> <p>Catherine Petrey – <i>Strategic Advisor Firearms</i></p> <p>John Herbert – <i>Senior Partnerships Advisor</i></p> <p>Kathryn Street – <i>Principal Advisor Strategic Communications</i></p> <p>New Zealand Police</p> <p>Jenna Marsh – <i>New Zealand Police</i></p> <p>Ministry of Justice</p> <p>Luke Dinneen – <i>Ministry of Justice</i></p>
Apologies	<p>Dr Justin Barry-Walsh – <i>The Royal Australian and NZ College of Psychiatrists</i></p> <p>Maureen Gillon – <i>Royal New Zealand College of GPs</i></p> <p>Edwina Hughes – <i>Peace Movement Aotearoa</i></p>

Item 1	Welcome, apologies, introduction of new members, processes, and meeting rules (Te Tari Pūreke)												
Discussion	<p>The chair welcomed attendees and opened the meeting with a karakia. Apologies were noted.</p> <p>The chair welcomed Philippa Yasbek to the Group, as the Gun Control NZ representative in replacement for Nik Green. Philippa introduced herself to the members. The chair acknowledged the contributions made by Nik Green during his time on the Arms Engagement Group.</p>												
Item 2	Confirm previous minutes and action points (Te Tari Pūreke)												
Discussion	<p>The group noted that the minutes from July 2025 were confirmed via email as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>The minutes are published on the website. https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-10/2025%2007%2024%20AEG%20meeting%20minutes.pdf</p> <p>The Group discussed the actions from previous meetings (see Actions table on pages (10)).</p> <p>The chair provided the following details of reporting received by Te Tari Pūreke from health professionals regarding patients who are licence holders.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Period to 30 June</th> <th>Not my patient⁽¹⁾</th> <th>Reports of concern⁽²⁾</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2023 - 2024</td> <td>439</td> <td>52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024 - 2025</td> <td>481</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025 - 2026 YTD⁽³⁾</td> <td>167</td> <td>26</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Response to email advising that a licence has been issued to their patient Advising possible concern re a patient's fit and proper status YTD is as at 01/12/2025 <p>Arms Engagement Group comments</p> <p>Thanks to Te Tari Pūreke for the information and explaining the nature of each type of report. Useful to understand the numbers in context of (1) 25 – 30k licence applications per annum currently and (2) 225,000 licence holders.</p>	Period to 30 June	Not my patient ⁽¹⁾	Reports of concern ⁽²⁾	2023 - 2024	439	52	2024 - 2025	481	55	2025 - 2026 YTD ⁽³⁾	167	26
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Actions	Te Tari Pūreke to present health professionals update at each meeting.												
Item 3	Partnerships & Communities updates (Te Tari Pūreke)												
Discussion	<p>Firearms Safety Code update</p> <p>The Firearms Safety Code has been updated and is available in English and Te Reo Māori. Thank you to everyone who gave feedback. The code is more succinct with updated photos and scenarios, hunting at night information has been expanded and Rule 3, chamber a cartridge only when ready to fire, has been clarified.</p>												

Physical copies can be purchased from Whitcoulls, Paper Plus and Unity Books and some rural stores. It is around \$35. The Code can be printed for free as a pdf from the website. <https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-11/Firearms%20Safety%20Code%202022.pdf>

A digital flip book of the Firearms Safety Code will be available online through a collaboration with the Game Animal Council by Christmas. The book can be viewed here - <https://nzgameanimalcouncil.org.nz/firearms-safety-code-digital-flipbook/>

Secure Storage Pamphlet

A new Secure Storage pamphlet has been developed; it clearly sets out how to safely store firearms and ammunition and what to do with keys etc. It includes information for licence holders that do not have firearms.

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-07/Firearms-secure-storage-guide.pdf>

Making it easier for visitors

There has been feedback about the visitor licensing process and asked for some short guidance to help applicants understand how to apply. An information sheet has now been created. This is available online -

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/manage-and-apply/visiting-or-moving-new-zealand/bringing-arms-items-when-you-visit-new-zealand>

Health & Firearms

The health & firearms pamphlet is in 700+ health clinics across NZ from August- November via MediBoard. The campaign will run from August to November. There has been good uptake with a total of 7,977 pamphlets in circulation – either in the boards or picked up – between August and September.

Arms Engagement Group comments

A member requested a copy of the health pamphlet be sent to them.

Air travel brochure

The travelling with firearms and ammunition domestic air travel information sheet has just gone through an internal review and the next step is the final design and rollout. It is set up as a check list that is easy to read with key points and obligations in bold. Conversations with airlines are taking place to ensure they are on board and understand the rules.

Sika Show

The Sika Show is 8-9 November; Te Tari Pūreke will be attending with a stand at the same site as last year. The stand will focus on safe handling, storage and transport of firearms and mental health awareness with an interactive family friendly focus.

	<p>Māori Partnerships Group</p> <p>The Māori Partnerships Group has welcomed a new Senior Advisor to the team. They are working on uplifting staff cultural capability to ensure they have the skills to be culturally safe.</p> <p>There are growing enquiries for the Whakatūpato courses as well as requests for online and post course support. Community engagement has been a focus in the Eastern regions and the group were invited to attend the Karaitiana Tamararo regional kapa haka competition in Tolaga Bay. The team also attended the NASDAP conference to promote the Secondary Schools Firearms Safety Course. With the proposed disestablishment of NCEA, this will likely impact the schools course, but as the changes are drip fed there will still be at least 3 years to continue gaining credits. The online Māori Firearm Forum hui took place and went very well.</p> <p>Arms Engagement Group comments</p> <p>Q. Can the cohort of Whakatūpato attendees be tracked in the licence system?</p> <p>A. The past attendees cannot be tracked due the process in use. The persons who attend this course now and, in the future, can be identified. On going task to understand the cohort.</p> <p>Community trainer initiative</p> <p>We are working to establish a Community and Regulator working group which will collaborate to set up a community-based training delivery model. There was a great number of highly skilled nominations received, and the group will be working hard to create a program that will give community members accreditation to deliver firearms safety training on behalf of the Regulator. The group are volunteers.</p> <p>Safety Animations</p> <p>A series of animations have been developed to illustrate safe use for hunters and assist compliance for firearm users. They will be used on firearm safety courses, social media and YouTube. It is an interactive way to learn about firearms safety and clearly explains the reasons why certain rules are in place. Animations are cost-effective to develop, edit and ensure consistency of style across individual topics.</p> <p>Arms Engagement Group comments</p> <p>Q. What future animations are planned?</p> <p>A. Expanding the library to cover the 'why' and 'how' of safety and focus for an urban audience.</p>
Actions	Send a copy of Firearms & Health pamphlet is member.

Item 4	Ministry of Justice policy update (Ministry of Justice)
Discussion	<p>The Ministry of Justice noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked Police Policy and the FSA for their hard work and technical support in developing the Bill. • The Arms Bill proposals were announced on 11 November, along with detailed material explaining the changes. • attendees are encouraged to take part in the select committee process. Noted that the Bill still has rough edges that will benefit from robust scrutiny. Also stressed that it's just as important to <u>submit on aspects you support as on those you oppose</u>. • We discussed the select committee process in general. While exact timings are set by the Committee and remain to be confirmed, MOJ are working to a timeline that would see the Bill passed around July 2026, ahead of the pre-election cooldown period. • the process for developing regulations to support the new legislation was briefly touched on. This work is being scoped and will begin in earnest in early 2026. MOJ will continue working closely with Police Policy and the FSA on this. <p>NOTE: Since the AEG meeting, the Bill has been introduced to Parliament and referred to the Justice Select Committee on 9 December. The Committee has called for public submissions and agreed to Minister McKee's request for an extended submission period. Submissions close on 16 February 2026.</p> <p>Arms Engagement Group comments</p> <p>There was a question about how current provisions made through Orders in Council (such as the Arms (Restricted Weapons and Specially Dangerous Airguns) Order 1984) will carry over into the new system.</p> <p>A – It has been confirmed these are on Moj's radar, and they are working through options to ensure the transition doesn't create regulatory gaps.</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 5	NZ Police policy update (NZ Police)
Discussion	<p>A brief update was given by NZ Police:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are supporting MOJ with advice on proposals in relation to the Arm Act rewrite and the impact it will have on the Police. <p>Arms Engagement Group comments</p> <p>No comments</p>
Actions	No action items.

Item 6	Firearms safety, education, and engagement																
Discussion	<table border="1" data-bbox="395 282 1070 566"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Safety Course delivery – 1 July 25 to 30 Sept 25</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total number of courses</td> <td>206</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Available places</td> <td>2060</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bookings received</td> <td>1778</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Available spaces – not booked</td> <td>282</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Persons who attended course</td> <td>1679</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Persons who booked and did not arrive</td> <td>99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Occupancy (attendance v available places)</td> <td>82%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64 schools have expressed interest in the schools program for 2026. The spread across the country is really good and we are open to receiving more school interest for 2026. • Work is ongoing to form the Community Working Group to look at developing the community delivery model. • The team have been involved in ongoing training to obtain unit standards 4098 Assessor and 11551 Moderation qualifications • Wider engagement activities have also commenced with an initial focus on information gathering • 12 more Whakatūpato courses are planned to be delivered before the end of December • More work will be done in the coming months on information for shooting under supervision. • We are working on guidance material for accommodation providers about storage and the legal requirements. There is a draft document that has gone to the legal team. <p>Arms Engagement Group comments</p> <p>Q.- What impact is anticipated from the recent announcement of changes to college curriculum including removing NCEA?</p> <p>A- The course will continue to for the next two years. During that time, we will consider information and the structure of education as it becomes available to guide our response. So far there is good community engagement. We are also looking into developing modules with other providers, such as rural skills course providers.</p>	Safety Course delivery – 1 July 25 to 30 Sept 25		Total number of courses	206	Available places	2060	Bookings received	1778	Available spaces – not booked	282	Persons who attended course	1679	Persons who booked and did not arrive	99	Occupancy (attendance v available places)	82%
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Actions	No action items.																
Item 7	Firearms burglary and theft data update																
Discussion	<p>Tina Berkett presented an update of her research into firearms burglary and theft.</p> <p>The deep dive looked at how many times a firearm was taken or attempted to be taken and where from (safe/rack, insecure or vehicle). There is no specific firearm theft of burglary charge so 220,000 narratives in 2024 had to be looked at manually.</p>																

		2022	2023	2024
TOTAL firearm taken/ attempted to be taken Occurrences		180	150	131
Firearm burglaries/thefts compared to previous year			-20%	-15%
All burglaries/thefts compared to previous year [#]			-1%	+9%
Unsuccessful attempts to take a firearm		27 (15%)	32 (22%)	30 (23%)
Occurrences where a firearm was taken		153 (85%)	118 (78%)	101 (77%)

[#] This is to see if the trend is the same for all burglary/thefts reviewed when compared to the firearms stolen/attempted to be stolen trend

Note the above data is burglary and thefts that are reported to Police.

There was a decrease of 19 in total occurrences from 2023 (150) to 2024 (131). However unsuccessful attempts went up 1 percentage point.

How was the safe or rack accessed?

1. Cut or forced open (57%),
2. Safe key used (20%)
3. Entire safe taken (14%).

The 4% decrease in the use of the safe key is positive and indicates more users are storing the keys securely away from the safe. The thefts were largely equal across NZ with no specific region standing out. Of the safes that were broken into 56% of incidents were done by tools the thief brought with them; this shows it was premeditated with intent to steal firearms. There were an additional 10 incidents where just ammunition was taken.

There were 65 repeat offences of the same individual / property. Often the first offence the safe was not accessed and the offender came back a month or more later to access the safe.

Going forward data will continue to be added each year for further analysis and the findings will be turned into messaging for firearms holders.

Arms Engagement Group comments

Q – Any suggestion of staged burglaries?
 A. – not identified in the source material.

Q – Is there any stats for the periods before those quoted?
 A. – This research has been started from scratch. The data has to be gathered from visual inspection of each burglary or theft occurrence record

	<p>so the data started with the preceding twelve months of the start and will build going forward.</p> <p>Q – Would be it be possible to include details of licence holders doing the right things?</p> <p>A. – Sorry no. Mention made of the ‘safest in the safe’ campaign on Facebook and other media; more information about being safe when transporting firearms and stopping for petrol, or refreshments. Reports to police of burglary, attempted burglary being followed up with licence holders to ensure the chance or re-victimisation is reduced.</p> <p>Comment – “Terrific research”.</p>
Actions	Provide a copy of the presentation to members.
Item 8	Clubs & Ranges
Discussion	<p>A brief update was given on Clubs and Ranges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to negotiate the recent legislative changes. It is challenging but we are getting there. • All application forms are now available on the website. Maps, internal forms and documents are still being progressed. There has not been a large number of new applications but there has been a raft of questions and clarifications. The email address is the number one point of contact. • Police Shooting Range Manual: This is very close to being finished and is in final draft. There have been no drastic changes, but it is a lot smaller as the website has been referenced wherever possible. • It looks like we will have same number of defaulters as the past 2 years which is disappointing. For people that default twice there are significant ramifications. The process is manually intensive which may have put some people off. • New guidelines have been developed to cover the change of legislation for temporary ranges with just the forms to be completed. • North Island range inspections are continuing, and the South Island should begin closer to Summer. There have been a lot of questions about the new legislation. The standards of the ranges inspected have been largely ok with only a handful of improvement notices for maintenance issued so far. • We have completed the backlog relating to .22 calibre rifles that have non-detachable prohibited magazines and the policy change allowing approved modification. We continue to receive a small number of events as FAL holders are entering these into the registry oblivious to the status of the firearms. They continue to be offered the modification option. <p>Arms Engagement Group comments</p> <p>The number of pistol endorsement holders who aren’t completing the required shooting activities seems quite high. Do defaulters have their endorsement cancelled?</p>

	<p>A. – More tracking is being done, and all defaulters are contacted. We have already revoked endorsements of several pistol shooters who have defaulted two years running.</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 9	General business (Te Tari Pūreke)
Discussion	<p>Meetings for next year</p> <p>The chair proposed that there be 3 meetings of the Group in 2026. This would be the same as in 2025. The first meeting would likely be in March 2026. Also indicated that as necessary meeting related to the progress of the Arms Bill could be arranged.</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke outlined that MoJ is the responsible agency for the Arms Bill so they will run all communications regarding select committee input, engagement meetings etc. Te Tari Pūreke may be asked for email addresses for their comms, we will confirm this with members before providing to MoJ.</p> <p>More work is being undertaken to ensure that there are statistics available to support discussions and provide underpinning for decision making.</p> <p>Members were asked if they have any recommendations of knowledgeable and suitable people for membership of the group.</p> <p>End of Year</p> <p>The Chair wished all Group members a happy, enjoyable and safe holiday season and best wishes for the New Year.</p> <p>Arms Engagement Group comments</p> <p>Attendees indicated that the continuation of 3 Group meetings per year is acceptable</p> <p>Question asked regarding Data release. Noted that information is proactively released on the Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority website. See Firearms data and public information Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand</p> <p>Group provided some suggestions for Group membership for Te Tari Pūreke consideration.</p>
Actions	Chair to schedule and advise meeting dates to Group Members, Ministry of Justice, NZ Police and Te Tari Pūreke attendees by end of January 2026.
Meeting close	
The Chair thanked for everyone attending and closed the meeting with a karakia.	

Agenda/ Action item	Action	Person responsible	Due date	Status
Meeting 13/03/2025				
	Ministry of Justice to ask MAAG about a joint meeting with AEG (MOJ has noted this during the AEG meeting).	Ministry of Justice		On Hold.
	Set up a meeting with AEG and FCAF.	Douglas B. Kendra H.		OPEN. This was raised with AEG at the meeting on 13/03. AEG members received a survey about the AEG meetings. Once this is sorted then the joint meeting will be considered.
Meeting 27/11/2025				
	Next year's meeting schedule	Douglas B	Jan 2026	In progress. Calendar invites sent mid-January 2026
	Send Firearms and Health pamphlet	Douglas B	Dec 2025	Completed.
	Copy of the burglary presentation to members.	Douglas B	Feb 2026	Open. Send with minutes