



NSW Police Force

30 August 2022

Dear Parents,

Gel Blasters in New South Wales

New South Wales Police would like to highlight an emerging issue which many of you might not be aware of.

Gel Guns or Gel Blasters are lifelike 'toy' guns that closely resemble firearms. They fire gel balls and can be very difficult to differentiate from a real firearm. They are classified as air guns under NSW law and gel balls are classified as ammunition.

It is a crime to possess a Gel Gun in NSW unless you have a firearms licence, even if it was purchased online or legally in another State. It is also a crime to bring a Gel Gun to school. There is potential for injury if a person is struck by a gel pellet ammunition and understandably students and staff may become frightened and distressed if they believe a firearm has been brought into the school.

If a student is found to have a Gel Gun in a school, it will be confiscated, parents and the police will be called. The student may face disciplinary action through the school and could be arrested and charged with possession of a firearm. Parents may also be held liable as per Section 82 of the Firearms Act.

On 1 July 2021, New South Wales Police commenced an ongoing National Firearms Amnesty along with all other states and territories. This allows for any firearms or firearm related articles to be surrendered to a police station without fear of prosecution. If this issue relates to you please ensure you contact your local police station prior to attending and ensure the firearm is in a bag or wrapped in a blanket.

My sincere thanks for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Gavin Wood APM
Assistant Commissioner
Capability Performance and Youth Command

TRIPLE ZERO (000)

Emergency only

POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE (131 444)

For non emergencies

CRIME STOPPERS (1800 333 000)

Report crime anonymously

PARENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION

GEL BLASTERS

What is a Gel Blaster?

A firearm that is typically constructed of plastic and is operated either manually by a piston air pump or automatically by means of a battery-powered motor. These firearms discharge hydrated gel balls by means of a spring and air operated by a trigger mechanism. They cannot discharge the hydrated gel balls by means of an explosive. They often have an outward appearance of various handguns, shotguns and rifles in existence.

What happens if someone is caught with a gel blaster?

Because these are considered actual firearms in NSW, a person who supplies, acquires or possesses an unregistered firearm could be arrested and charged for possession of a firearm (*under Section 36(1) of the NSW Firearms Act 1996*) which holds a **maximum penalty of 5 years for a FIREARM or up to 14 years for a PISTOL or PROHIBITED FIREARM. Possessing 3 or more where at least one is a prohibited firearm carries 20 years.**

You could also be facing charges of Possessing a firearm whilst unlicensed (*under Section 7 and 7A of the NSW Firearms Act 1996*).

Section 82 of the NSW Firearms Act 1996 states that if a parent (or guardian) knowingly allows a person under the age of 18 years to contravene the Act, each parent/guardian is taken to have contravened the same provision.

What does the law say?

Section 4(1) of the Firearms Act 1996 NSW classes Gel Blasters as an air gun, which is considered a **FIREARM** and hand-gun type Gel Blasters as a **PISTOL**.

Gel Blasters often substantially duplicate military type self-loading rifles, machine guns and sub-machine guns which would classify them as **PROHIBITED FIREARMS (Item 7, Schedule 1 of the Firearms Act 1996 NSW)**.

Hydrated Gel Balls may also be considered **AMMUNITION** under the act.



What do I do if I already have a Gel Blaster?

On 1 July 2021, New South Wales commenced an ongoing National Firearms Amnesty along with all other states and territories. This allows for any firearms or firearm related articles to be surrendered to a police station without fear of prosecution. Ensure you contact your local police station prior to attending and ensure the firearm is in a bag or wrapped in a blanket.