University Firearms Policy

INTRODUCTION

From time to time University staff may require the use of firearms to assist in the performance of their work or a research project. The University is committed to providing a safe environment for both staff and students with regards to the handling, transport and storage of firearms.

STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

The authority behind this policy is the Charles Darwin University Act 2003 part 3, section 15.

COMPLIANCE

This is a compliance requirement under the Northern Territory Firearms Act 1997 and Firearms Regulations 2007.

INTENT

The intention of this document is to outline the University’s obligations in accordance with the Firearms Act 1997 (NT) and Firearms Regulations 2007 (NT), when acquiring, handling, storing and disposing of firearms.

RELEVANT DEFINITIONS

In the context of this document

Commissioner means Northern Territory Commissioner of Police;

Firearm means a device or part of a device (whether or not assembled, operable or temporarily or permanently inoperable e.g. a rifle or shotgun action; or a pistol or revolver frame) that is designed or adapted to discharge shot, a bullet or other projectile:
- By expanding gases produced in the device;
- By igniting combustible material; or
- By compressed air or other compressed gases (whether stored in the device or attached to the device in pressurised containers);

Note this does not refer to an explosive-powered tool or compressed air nailing tool, a spear-gun or a pistol designed to be used for life-saving, rescuing or distress signal purposes.

Firearms Officer means a staff member of the University who:
- holds a valid Employee Firearms Licence;
- is appointed by the Vice-Chancellor to maintain the Corporate Licence;
- acquires and disposes of firearms on the University’s behalf;
- controls access to the University’s firearms and firearms safe; and
- ensures all people accessing, using, transporting and/or storing University firearms are appropriately licenced and trained to do so;
**Holder** (in relation to a licence, permit or certificate of registration) means the person to whom it is granted;

**Possess or use** (in relation to a firearm or ammunition) includes to carry, have under control, test, discharge and store the firearm or ammunition. Under the Firearms Act - a firearm, ammunition or a silencer is taken to be in the possession of a person if it is in or on any premises owned, leased or occupied by, or in the care, control or management of, the person;

**Regulations** means the **Firearms Regulations 2007** (NT);

**Senior Executive** means a staff member of the University holding the position of Vice-Chancellor, Provost, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor or Chief Financial Officer or equivalent;

**Senior Manager** means a staff member of the University holding the position of Director or Head of School or equivalent;

**The Act** means **the Firearms Act 1997** (NT); and

**UHSG** means University Health and Safety Group.

**POLICY**

The Firearms Act and Regulations mandate that in order to use firearms in the Northern Territory for University business, the University must hold a Firearms Corporate Licence. For each Firearms Corporate Licence, the Vice-Chancellor will appoint a Firearms Officer to act on the University’s behalf in monitoring compliance of and adherence to the Act and Regulations.

All staff requiring access to a firearm for the purpose of conducting University business will be required to undergo appropriate training and hold a current Firearms Employee Licence in accordance with the Act.

Any new purchases or users of firearms within the University or on University business will be subject to approval by the UHSG. Any recommendation for approval of firearm purchase or utilisation will be based on essential use only.

A register is to be kept by the University Firearms Officer/s of all Firearms Employee Licence holders who, as a requirement of their employment, are required to use firearms, including details of licences and training received. A copy of all documentation is to be sent to the University’s Records and Archives Branch.

The use of personal firearms for/or whilst attending University business, is in the normal course of events, expressly forbidden.

All firearms and ammunition will be stored separately and in an approved safe in accordance with the Regulations.

**ESSENTIAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**External**

[Firearms Act 1997](NT)
[Firearms Regulations 2007](NT)
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<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Date Approved</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>19 Sep 2012</td>
<td>Vice-Chancellor</td>
<td>Creation of original document and upload to CDU website.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>13 Feb 2013</td>
<td>Governance</td>
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