

FIREARM INFORMATION SHEET FOR HEALTH PRACTITIONERS



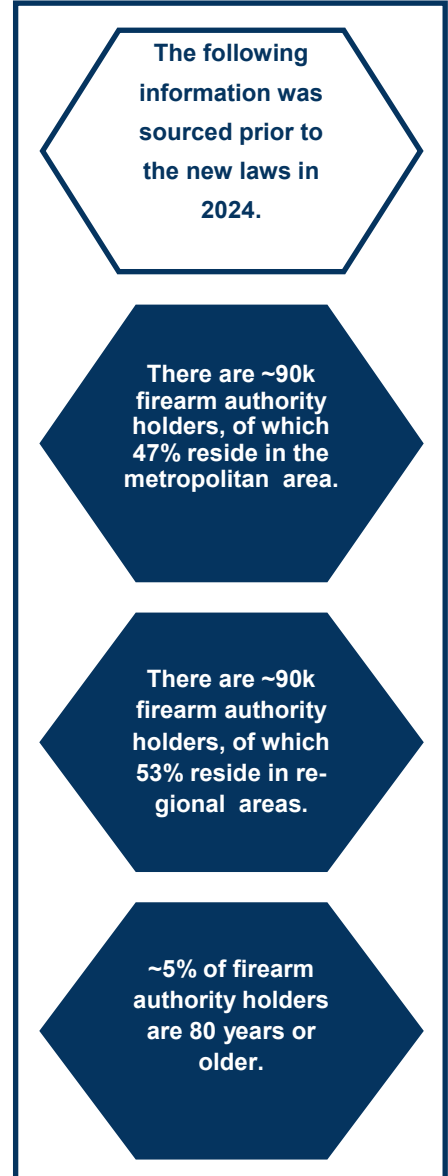
Firearms Act 2024 — Firearms Authority Health Assessment—Key Points for Health Practitioners

VERSION 3, MARCH 2025

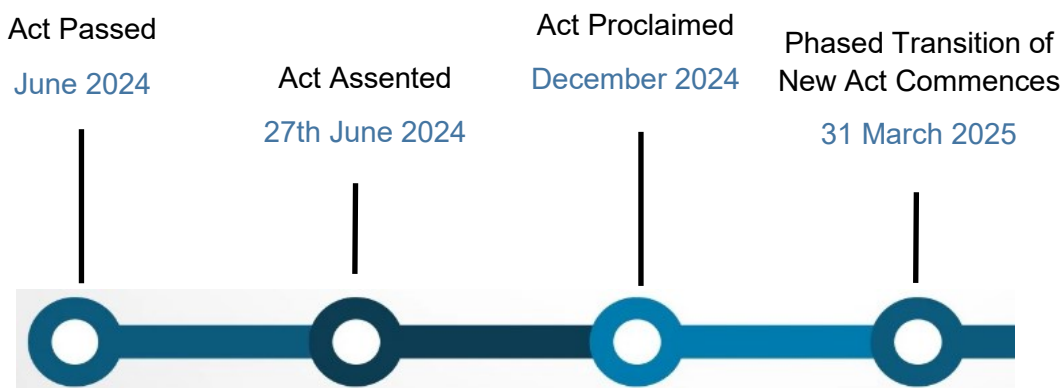
Section 153 of the *Firearms Act 2024* provides that the Commissioner of Police (or delegate) has sufficient grounds for forming the opinion that a person is not fit and proper if the Commissioner of Police (or delegate) is satisfied that the person does not meet Firearm Authority Health Assessment (FAHA) standards.

What does this mean for Health Practitioners?

- ◆ Health Practitioners (medical practitioners) are **not** decision-makers in relation to the grant of a firearm authority.
- ◆ Health Practitioners (medical practitioners) are not obligated to conduct a FAHA. They can be referred to alternative providers.
- ◆ A FAHA is only one component of the overall assessment of an individual.
- ◆ FAHA appointments are not covered by Medicare, therefore the fee is to be determined by the medical practice.
- ◆ Health professionals are protected from any criminal, civil or disciplinary action (s) for reports made in good faith:
 - ◇ Section 378(1) of the *Firearms Act 2024*
 - ◇ Other legislative provisions that Health Practitioners may wish to refer to, as applicable to their area of practice, include:
 - Section 220 of the *Health Services Act 2016*
 - Section 577 of the *Mental Health Act 2014*



What is the Legislative timeline?



Note: Health Assessments do **not** come into effect until the Commencement date, 31 March 2025.

What is the process?

1. Prior to the medical appointment

Applicants must:

- ◆ Complete FAHA Part A — Self Assessment Questionnaire. (form available through their account in the firearm portal).
- ◆ Arrange an FAHA appointment with health practitioner of their choice.
- ◆ Email or bring the FAHA form (with part A completed) to the health practitioner.

Note:

- ◇ Part A and Part B of the FAHA are not submitted or retained by WA Police Force.

2. Day of the medical appointment

Applicants must:

- ◆ Bring a list of any prescribed medicine they are currently taking.
- ◆ Bring or wear any corrective lenses and/or hearing aid.
- ◆ Bring or wear any prosthesis (if applicable)

Health Practitioner must:

- ◆ Review part A of the FAHA
- ◆ Complete part B of the FAHA
- ◆ Submit outcome of FAHA via dedicated web link.



4. Follow-Up

- ◆ No further action required by health practitioner following submission of Part C.
- ◆ Health practitioners not obligated to advise patient of the outcome.
- ◆ Where additional information required, WA Police will seek the information through the firearm authority holder/applicant.
- ◆ If required to speak to health practitioner, WA Police Force will obtain written consent from the firearm authority holder/applicant.

3. Record keeping and sharing

Health Practitioner:

- ◆ Submit outcome of Part C via a dedicated on-line facility.
- ◆ It is recommended that copies of the FAHA are saved as part of normal record keeping practices.

Note:

- ◇ FAHA form (Part A and B) are not to be submitted to the WA Police Force.
- ◇ FAHA are valid for 12 months once submitted.

Frequency of FAHA:

- ◆ 80 years of age or older—annually.
- ◆ Under 80 years of age—every 5 years, after initial FAHA or as directed.



Firearms Act 2024



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