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Subject: Firearms Panui - October 2026



**Firearms Safety
and Education**
New Zealand

Firearms Pānui

The latest firearms information

October 2026

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Kia ora and welcome

Welcome to the first Firearms Pānui from Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand. We'll continue to share practical information, firearms safety resources, regulatory updates and answers to common questions to help support the safe and lawful possession and use of firearms.

In this edition

- What's changed? Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand is now operating
 - Understanding the Arms Act: what changes may affect you?
 - Connecting with licence holders at the NZ Fishing, Hunting & 4x4 Expo
 - Supporting women to build firearms safety knowledge
 - Supporting Firearms Safety Education in Rural Communities
 - Firearms Safety Code update underway
 - Website update: using the correct forms
 - Firearms Safety: secure storage - an important responsibility for licence holders
 - Keep up to date on the latest numbers
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What's changed? Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand is now operating

From 23 September 2026, Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand (FSE) became New Zealand's autonomous regulator. FSE is responsible for firearms licensing, the Firearms Registry, firearms safety education and regulatory oversight. While some requirements are changing under the Arms Act 2026, many services and processes continue as usual. We're here to provide information and support to help licence holders understand their responsibilities and safely participate in New Zealand's firearms system.

Read more [Who we are | Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand New Zealand](#)



Understanding the Arms Act: what changes may affect you?

The Arms Act 2026 introduces a range of changes across New Zealand's firearms system. What affects you will depend on your circumstances, whether you're an individual licence holder, business licence holder (formerly a dealer's licence holder), collector, museum worker, visitor licence holder, club member, or range operator. We've developed guidance to help you understand the changes relevant to you and the responsibilities that apply.

Learn more: [Home | Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand](#)



Connecting with licence holders at the NZ Fishing, Hunting & 4x4 Expo

Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand attended the NZ Fishing, Hunting & 4x4 Expo, where the team spoke with licence holders and visitors about firearms licensing, secure storage requirements, and upcoming legislative changes.

Many attendees were interested in hunting and were seeking practical information about obtaining a firearms licence and meeting their storage obligations. The expo also provided an opportunity to discuss recent changes affecting the firearms system, answer questions from licence holders, and raise awareness about Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand and Arms Act changes for the first time.

The team provided advice, distributed chamber safety flags and information resources, and had positive engagement throughout the event.

[NZ FISHING HUNTING & 4X4 EXPO](#)



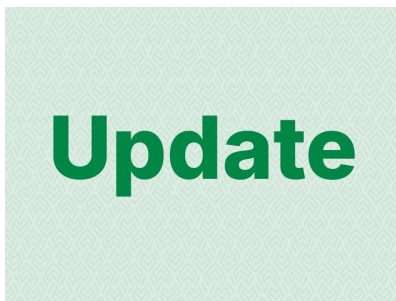
Supporting women to build firearms safety knowledge

A recent pilot women-only Firearms Safety Course was delivered in partnership with WildChix, providing a supportive environment for participants beginning their firearms licensing journey.

Eight women attended the course and arrived well prepared, contributing to a highly engaged learning experience throughout the day. Participants asked thoughtful questions and actively participated in discussions, demonstrating a strong commitment to learning about firearms safety and their legal responsibilities.

For many attendees, the practical handling component was a valuable opportunity to build confidence, as several had little or no previous experience with firearms. Feedback highlighted the benefits of the women-only format, which helped create a comfortable and encouraging learning environment for participants developing new skills.

The course concluded on a positive note, with participants successfully completing the programme and providing encouraging feedback about their experience.



Supporting firearms safety education in rural communities

Our Firearms Safety Team recently supported a rural schools competition involving intermediate and secondary school students from across the region.

Working in teams, students rotated through a range of practical activity stations designed to build knowledge and skills. At the firearms safety station, participants completed activities focused on key firearms safety principles in a way that was engaging and appropriate for their age group.

The event provided an opportunity to introduce young people to important firearms safety messages and encourage safe behaviour around firearms. By working with schools and rural communities, our Firearms Safety Team helps promote a strong culture of firearms safety and responsible decision-making among future generations.

[Firearms safety course options](#) | [Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand New Zealand](#)

Firearms Safety Code

Fundamental guide for the safe use of firearms



Version 5.0
September 2026



Firearms Safety
and Education
New Zealand

Firearms Safety Code: update underway

The Safety Code is being updated to align with the Arms Act 2026. While the core safety messages remain the same, we're reviewing the content to ensure information reflects the current legislation. Continue to follow the principles of safe possession, storage, transport and use of firearms while the updated version is being finalised.

[Firearms Safety Code](#) | [Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand New Zealand](#)



Website update: using the correct forms

Licence holders may notice a few transitional issues around some forms and documents on our website. Some forms feature old branding and references to old legislation. Licence holders should not be concerned by this and can continue to use these forms. Applications made from 23 September 2026 are processed under the new legislation. This temporary arrangement allows licence holders to continue participating in the system and allows the new regulator to continue supporting the lawful possession and use of firearms, arms items, and ammunition.

Firearms safety



Secure storage: an important responsibility for licence holders

Secure storage remains one of the most important responsibilities of a firearms licence holder. Regularly reviewing your storage arrangements can help prevent theft, unauthorised access, and misuse.

If your circumstances have changed, such as moving house or changing where firearms are stored, make sure your arrangements continue to meet requirements and remain appropriate for the firearms in your possession.

Read more: [Storage and transportation of firearms and ammunition](#) | [Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand New Zealand](#)

Keep up to date with the latest numbers

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

This section contains:

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

Two additional firearms data sets are now available, providing information on firearms regulation, Registry service performance, and Firearms Safety Course delivery.

More detailed firearms data is available at: [Firearms data and public information](#) | [Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand](#)

Active firearms licences	
1 October 2026	
Individual	217,462
Business	434
Museum	3
Museum Worker	0
Visitor	114
Total	218,013

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Firearms licensing completion summary		
	Sep 2026	Aug 2026
Individual	1,823	1,645
Business	0	25
Museum	0	0
Visitor	55	53

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Firearms Registry Update	
1 October 2026	
Total Firearms Registered	726,470
Total Firearms Parts Registered	20,344
Total Licence Holders Registered	155,542

Total Licence Holders registered refers to all current and expired individual or visitor firearms licence holders with a registered firearm or firearms part.

firearmssafety.govt.nz

 Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand

Ngā mihi,

The Partnerships Team

Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand

If you have feedback on this pānui or there is anything you would like to see in future editions, please email firearmspartnerships@firearmssafety.govt.nz

