

## 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.