

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 11

26 September 2025

Question No. 647

DEBORAH MORRIS MLA: To ask the Attorney-General —

1. What legislation currently regulates the sale, possession, or distribution of bladed weapons, including machetes, in the ACT.
2. Which ACT Government body is responsible for enforcing compliance with the legislation referred to in part (1).
3. From the 2019-2020 reporting period to present, how many retailers in the ACT have been found in breach of regulations relating to the sale of bladed weapons; if any, what enforcement action was taken.
4. Are ACT retailers currently required to hold a licence or verify age prior to selling machetes or other large, bladed implements.
5. Has the ACT Government issued any formal guidance or advisory material to retailers regarding the responsible sale of machetes or similar bladed items.
6. Has the ACT Government reviewed, or does it intend to review, interstate developments regarding the restriction or regulation of machetes, including actions taken in Victoria.

TARA CHEYNE MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- Section 383 of the *Crimes Act 1900* provides that a person shall not sell a knife to a person under 16 years old, an offence which carries a maximum penalty of 10 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.
- Section 384 of the *Crimes Act 1900* requires retailers selling knives in the ACT to display a sign that says that it is an offence to sell a knife to a person under the age of 16.
- The general possession of a knife is regulated by the *Crimes Act 1900*, the *Criminal Code 2002*, and the *Prohibited Weapons Act 1996*, depending upon the type of knife.
- A “knife” in the *Crimes Act 1900* is defined as including a knife blade, a razor blade, and any other blade, other than a knife excluded by regulation. This definition includes a machete.

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- These provisions in the *Crimes Act 1900* are enforced by ACT Policing.
- According to ACT Policing data, during this period ACT Policing have not laid charges relating to section 383 (sell knife to person under 16 years) or section 384 (relating to signage about the sale of knives) of the *Crimes Act 1900*.
- The ACT Government has not issued any guidance or advice to retailers on the sale of machetes or similar bladed items.
- The ACT Government is currently reviewing police powers relating to knife crime in response to Mr Cain's motion in the Assembly on 4 March 2025. The ACT Government will report back to the Assembly on this matter by the end of the year, as required.
- Victoria's reforms to machetes have been discussed by State, Territory and Commonwealth Police Ministers through the Police Ministers Council. At the recent Council meeting on 2 October 2025 ([POLICE MINISTERS COUNCIL Thursday 2 October 2025](#)), participants:
 - noted the update on changes to knife and machete regulation across jurisdictions, including the recent machete bans in Victoria and South Australia.
 - agreed that reducing the supply and possession of knives and machetes is a national priority to maintain public safety and confidence.
 - noted jurisdictions are constantly evaluating their own settings and commit to sharing experiences as appropriate

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



**Tara Cheyne MLA
Attorney-General**

Date: 20/10/25

This response required 1hr 40mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$264.19.