

Police storage claims outrageous

A Victorian Police officer is calling for law changes forcing all lawful firearms owners to make other arrangements for their firearms if they leave the house for “more than a couple of days”.

Superintendent Craig Gillard was reported in [The Age](#) at the weekend making outrageous claims that organised criminals were stealing “thousands of firearms from registered owners in regional Victoria”.

The reality is, the government’s own statistics reveal just 358 firearms were reported stolen across Victoria in the financial year to June 2013. They were: 232 category A firearms, 87 category B firearms, 1 category C and 38 category D firearms.

Despite the statistical evidence proving his claims wrong, Superintendent Craig Gillard says laws should prevent firearms from being kept at a property during a prolonged absence.

“If you're away from your property for more than a couple of days, we need to advocate for legislation that says you can't leave firearms if a house is uninhabited,” he told *The Age*.

He also called for radical changes to current storage requirements, saying current legal hard wood or steel safes were ‘flimsy’.

The Victorian Firearms Act 1996 states that category A and B firearm safes must be made from “hard wood or steel that is not easily penetrable” and be bolted to the wall or floor if they weigh less than 150kg when empty.

But the senior police officer who is obviously [Jaws](#) from *The Spy Who Loved Me* in disguise said, “On a good day I can rip that open with my teeth”.

SSAA Victoria has contacted Victoria Police to call for a retraction of the above comments. Any future claims regarding firearms laws must be based on evidence.

ENDS

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