

## Firearm Authority Health Examinations

### Purpose Of This Information Sheet

- This information sheet explains the Firearm Authority Health Examination requirements for people who apply for, or hold, a firearm authority in Western Australia.
- It explains:
  - who must complete a Firearm Authority Health Examination
  - how often an examination is required
  - how the examination process works
  - how the outcome is used.

### Who Needs to Complete a Firearm Authority Health Examination?

- You must complete a Firearm Authority Health Examination if you are:
  - applying for a firearm authority, including applying to be an authorised person under a licence, or
  - an existing firearm authority holder when directed by the regulator.
- Existing firearm authority holders will be required to complete their first Firearm Authority Health Examination at different times over a five-year transition period. You will be advised when you need to complete your examination, via a notification in your firearms portal. You do not need to take any action until you receive this notification.

### How Often Do I Need to Complete a Firearm Authority Health Examination?

- After your first Firearm Authority Health Examination, you must complete another one every five years.
- If you are 80 years of age or older, you must complete a Firearm Authority Health Examination every year.
- The timing of your examinations will be directed by the regulator, with notification via your portal account.

### What is the Purpose of the Firearm Authority Health Examination?

- The Firearm Authority Health Examination determines whether a person meets the firearm authority health standards.

### What are the Firearm Authority Health Standards?

- The health standards focus on whether you can:
  - safely and responsibly possess and use a firearm
  - comply with any conditions placed on your firearm authority
  - continue to meet the requirements relating to firearm security and storage.
- Meeting these standards forms part of assessing whether you are a fit and proper person to hold a firearm authority.

## How Does the Firearm Authority Health Examination Work?

- The Firearm Authority Health Examination has three parts.
- You must complete Part A first, and then take the entire form (Parts A, B and C) to your medical appointment.

### **Part A – Self-assessment questionnaire**

- You must complete a self-assessment questionnaire before your appointment.
- This questionnaire asks questions about your health and wellbeing and helps your medical practitioner understand any matters that may need to be considered during the assessment.
- You are required to take the completed questionnaire with you when you attend your medical appointment.

### **Part B – Medical assessment**

- A medical practitioner (general practitioner) will:
- review your completed self-assessment questionnaire, and
- complete the medical assessment tool to determine whether you meet the firearm authority health standards.

### **Part C – Firearm Authority Health Examination outcome**

- At the end of your appointment, the medical practitioner records the outcome of your Firearm Authority Health Examination.
- Only Part C (the outcome) is provided to WA Police Force.
- No medical details from Parts A or B are shared with or retained by WA Police Force.

## How is the Outcome Provided to WA Police Force?

- The medical practitioner submits the outcome of the Firearm Authority Health Examination directly to WA Police Force.
- WA Police Force receives only (Part C) as to whether you:
  - meet the firearm authority health standards
  - meet the health standards subject to conditions, or
  - do not meet the health standards.

## How Much Does the Firearm Authority Health Examination Cost?

- The cost of the Firearm Authority Health Examination is set by the medical practice you attend.
- You must pay the cost yourself.

## What if I Live Remotely or Cannot Attend in Person?

- You are not required to attend the Firearm Authority Health Examination in person.
- If your medical practitioner offers telehealth appointments, a telehealth consultation is acceptable.

## What Happens if I Do Not Meet the Firearms Authority Health Examination?

- The outcome of the health examination is one part of the overall assessment used to decide whether you can be granted or continue to hold a firearm authority.
- The medical practitioner does not make the final decision about your firearm authority. The regulator considers the health outcome together with other relevant information before making a decision.

## What Happens if I Do Not Complete the Firearm Authority Health Examination?

- If you do not complete a required Firearm Authority Health Examination within the timeframe directed by the regulator, this may be taken into account when deciding whether you are a fit and proper person to hold a firearm authority

## What Should I Bring to My Appointment?

- To help your medical practitioner complete the Firearm Authority Health Examination, you should bring:
  - Your completed self-assessment questionnaire (Part A), which must be done before your appointment.
  - The full form (Part A, B & C).
  - Any relevant medical or specialist reports, such as recent reports or letters from specialists like psychiatrists, psychologists, ophthalmologists, or other treating practitioners related to their health or wellbeing.
  - A list of your current medications, including dosages, to help the medical practitioner understand their current treatment.
- Please note that while bringing this information can help the assessment be completed more efficiently, it does not guarantee a particular outcome. The medical practitioner may still need to make their own clinical enquiries or request further information.
- If you have a My Health Record, your medical practitioner may also be able to access relevant information during your appointment, where appropriate and with your consent. This can assist the medical practitioner to complete the assessment more efficiently.

## References to Legislation:

Legislation	Relevant Provision
<b><i>Firearms Act 2024</i></b>	Sections 148
<b><i>Firearms Regulations 2024</i></b>	Regulations 221, 222