



SSAA NSW · 2026 FIREARMS SURVEY · MEMBER REPORT

# The State of Trust

4,283 firearms owners and members across New South Wales told us how they rate policing, the Firearms Registry and current firearms laws. Here is SSAA NSW's own reading of the full result set, what it says about our members, and what we're doing about it.

PUBLISHED BY SSAA NSW · AUGUST 2026

Between 11 and 24 August 2026, SSAA NSW ran the **NSW Firearms Registry Trust & Confidence Survey** alongside Shooters Union Australia. The survey is now closed, with 4,283 consenting NSW residents having responded, a larger, more experienced and more statewide sample than almost any survey of our community before it.

This report is SSAA NSW's own analysis of that final, complete dataset, written for our members: what the numbers say, what we think they mean, and where we are taking them next.

01

## A statewide, experienced voice

This wasn't a snapshot of casual opinion. Respondents reflect a mature, deeply invested slice of the NSW firearms community; long-licensed, organisation-connected, and drawn from every corner of the state.

**96.7%**

Are licensed firearm owners

**88.9%**

Belong to a shooting, hunting or related organisation

**41.2%**

Have held a licence for more than 20 years

**31**

Of 31 NSW regions were represented



Respondents could select more than one reason, so figures add to more than 100%. Base: 4,283.

## Every region, from the Central West to Sydney's CBD

The single largest response group came from the Central West (387 responses), followed by Western Sydney, the Mid North Coast, Hunter Valley and Riverina, but every one of the survey's 31 listed NSW regions is represented in the final count.

02

## Confidence is thin and thinnest at the Registry

Members rated nine statements about trust and confidence on a scale of 1 to 10.

Every single one came in below the halfway mark. The pattern is consistent:

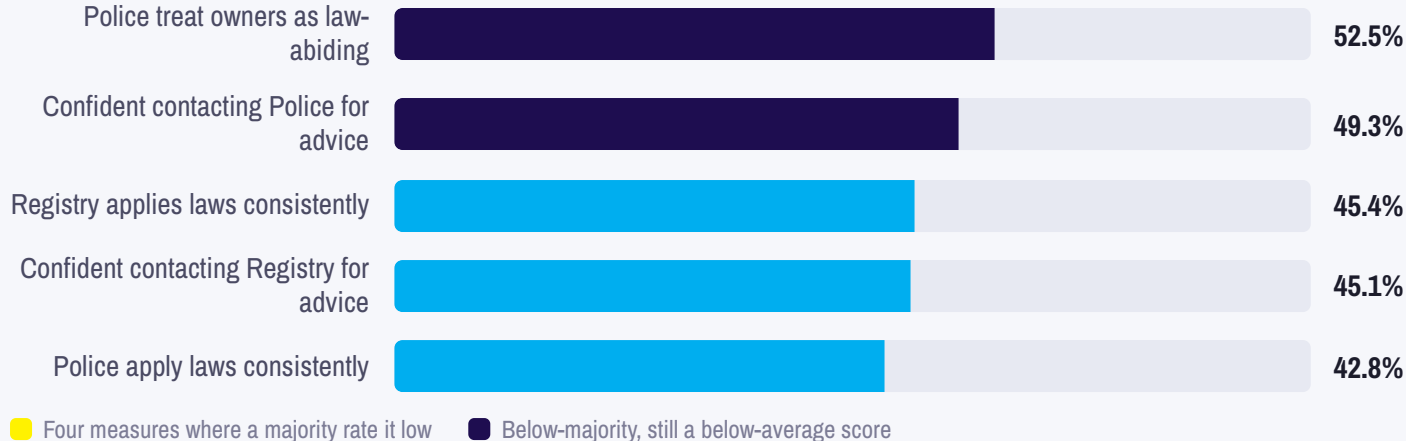
confidence is lowest wherever the Firearms Registry, as an institution, is directly responsible and comparatively higher wherever members are describing a one-to-one interaction, such as calling for advice.

# 2.84/10

is the average member rating for **Registry service turnaround**, the single lowest-scoring measure in the survey. Nearly three in four members (71.3%) rated it 1–3.

### SHARE OF MEMBERS GIVING A LOW RATING (1–3 OUT OF 10)



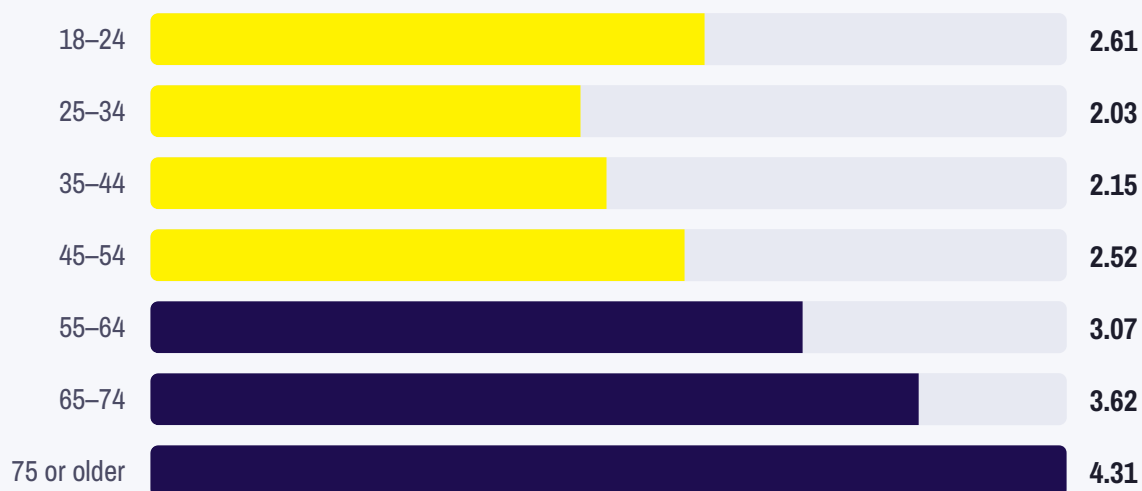


All nine measures rated 1–10 by every respondent. Base: 4,283.

Current laws fare no better than service delivery. **Half of all 4,283 respondents, precisely 50.4%, rated the balance between lawful ownership and community safety at 1 out of 10.** No other single answer, on any question in the survey, drew that much agreement.

That frustration isn't evenly spread across our membership, it splits sharply by age.

#### CONFIDENCE IN REGISTRY TURNAROUND, BY AGE



Mean rating out of 10 for confidence in Registry service turnaround, by age bracket. Base: 4,283.

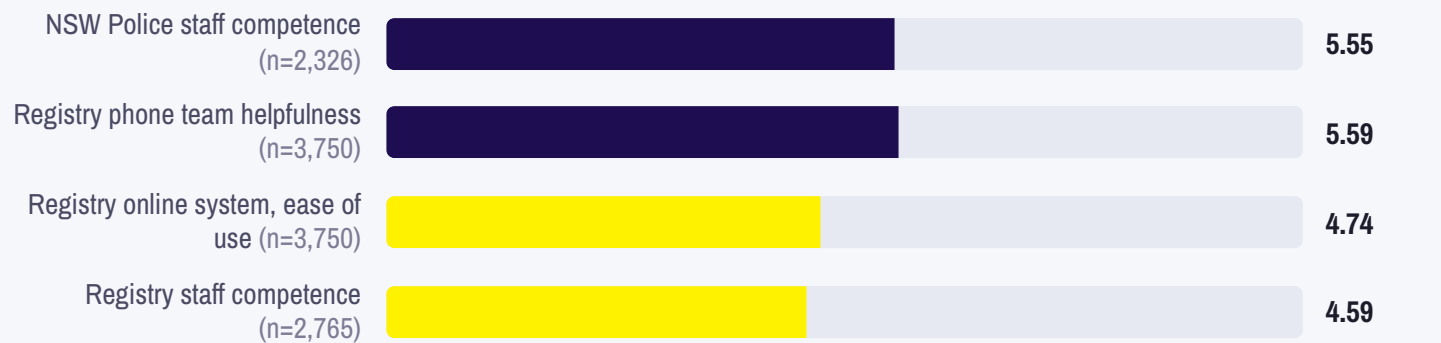
### Confidence rises with age, our newest members trust it least

Members aged 25–34 rate their confidence in Registry service turnaround at just 2.03 out of 10, barely half the 4.31 given by members aged 75 and over. The pattern holds right across the age range: every younger bracket rates the Registry more harshly than the one above it. This isn't only about members who've dealt with the system for decades, it's also about the impression it's making on the next generation of licence holders.

# Service on the ground: Police edges out the Registry

Among members who had actually dealt with each organisation in the past 12 months, NSW Police staff scored noticeably better than Registry staff for competence, though both sit below the middle of the scale. The Registry's phone team was its strongest channel; the online system its weakest.

MEAN RATING OUT OF 10, AMONG MEMBERS WITH RECENT CONTACT

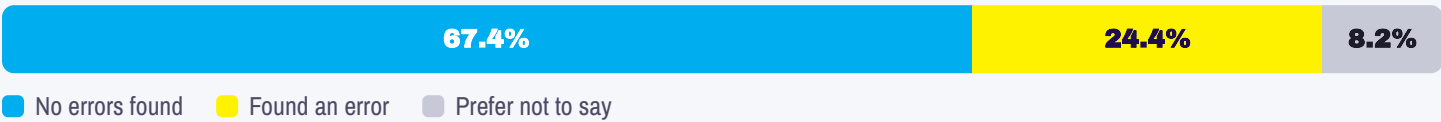


Respondent bases vary by question. Only members who reported recent contact with that channel answered. Phone helpfulness and online ease were asked of everyone who had used the Registry's online system or otherwise dealt with the Registry.

04

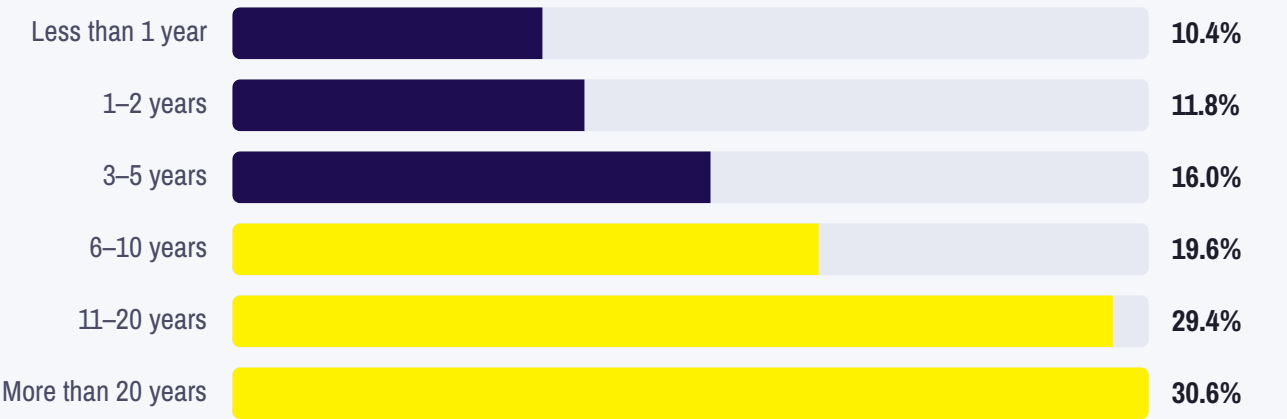
## When the record is wrong

Almost a quarter of members who've used the online system or otherwise dealt with the Registry told us they've personally found an error in their own firearm, licence, permit or personal information.



That risk isn't evenly spread either, it compounds the longer you've held a licence.

SHARE WHO FOUND AN ERROR, BY YEARS LICENSED



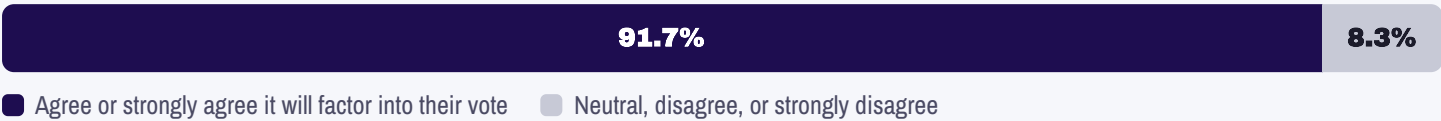
**Errors compound over time, our longest members carry the most**

915 of the 3,750 members asked (24.4%) reported an error in their own Registry record, most often around firearm details, licence category or personal information. That risk isn't evenly spread: members licensed for more than 20 years are almost three times as likely to have found an error as those licensed under a year (30.6% vs 10.4%). SSAA NSW's message to members: check your own record on the Registry portal, and tell us if you hit a wall trying to get an error fixed. We're using these accounts directly in our discussions with the Registry.

05

**Members are watching, and they will vote on it**

We asked whether firearms law, administration and policy would be a significant factor in how members vote at the 2027 NSW election. The answer was about as close to unanimous as survey data gets.



We also asked which party members expect to support in each house at the 2027 election. We're publishing it in full for transparency, it's a statewide, member-only sample, not a partisan statement from SSAA NSW.

STATED PARTY PREFERENCE, 2027 NSW ELECTION



Prefer not to say was 8.9% in the Upper House. All other parties combined: 7.7% (Lower House) / 7.5% (Upper House) — spread across the National Party, Liberal, independents, Labor, the Greens and others, none above 2.5% individually on their own. Base: 4,283.

We are reading all of this as a mandate, not a scoreboard. Whichever party members lean toward today, the message to all of them is the same: service turnaround, record accuracy and proportionate administration are issues that will

move votes in 2027. SSAA NSW's advocacy stays focused on the policy outcome which is fair, workable, risk-proportionate firearms administration, regardless of who forms government.

06

## What SSAA NSW is doing with this

Thank you to every member who took the time to respond. A sample this large, this experienced and this statewide gives us real weight at the table. Here is what happens next.

- 1 We are taking the full results to NSW Police, the Firearms Registry and local MPs** with the 2.84/10 turnaround score and the 24.4% record-error rate front and centre.
- 2 We are pushing for published turnaround targets** for Registry services, and a clear, member-facing process for correcting record errors.
- 3 We will track these measures over time**, running this survey again so we can show whether things are actually improving, not just talk about it.
- 4 We will keep members updated.** 60.2% of you asked to hear more, so watch for follow-up emails as these conversations progress.

**1,190**

### Written comments

General comments left by members, in addition to error descriptions, a rich set of first-hand accounts we're drawing on in our advocacy.

**60.2%**

### Want to stay involved

Asked to receive these results, policy updates and invitations to take part in future SSAA NSW surveys.

**Methodology.** Figures are drawn from 4,283 consenting NSW responses to the NSW Firearms Registry Trust & Confidence Survey, run jointly by SSAA NSW and Shooters Union Australia between 11–24 August 2026, when the survey closed. This report presents SSAA NSW's own analysis of the final, complete response set and its own editorial framing; figures may differ slightly from interim summaries published earlier in the collection period, which reported on a partial sample. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

For 1–10 questions: low = 1–3, middle = 4–7, high = 8–10. Questions about recent contact, the online system or Registry records were only put to, and are only reported for, the members who said that contact applied to them; each figure states its own base. Voting intention reflects stated preferences at the time

of the survey and is not a forecast.