

**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA**

**ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND POLICE LEGISLATION  
AMENDMENT ACT 2025**

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**Act No. 35 of 2025**

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# NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Act No. 35 of 2025

An Act to amend the *Firearms Act 1997*, the *Information Act 2002*, the *Police Administration Act 1978* and the *Public Trustee Act 1979*

[Assented to 5 December 2025]  
[Introduced 23 October 2025]

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

## Part 1 Preliminary matters

### 1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Attorney-General and Police Legislation Amendment Act 2025*.

### 2 Commencement

This Act commences on the day after the day on which the Administrator's assent to this Act is declared.

## Part 2 Amendment of Firearms Act 1997

### 3 Act amended

This Part amends the *Firearms Act 1997*.

**4 Section 35 amended (Permits to purchase or acquire firearms)**

(1) Section 35(5)

*omit*

where:

*insert*

if the checks prescribed by regulation have been completed and:

(2) Section 35(5)(a)(ii)

*omit*

and

*insert*

or

(3) Section 35(5)(b)

*omit, insert*

(b) if the permit is for the purchase or acquisition of a category A firearm or category B firearm – the person:

(i) holds a licence for the category of firearm to be purchased or acquired; and

(ii) owns a registered firearm of the same category as the firearm to be purchased or acquired.

**5 Part 13, Division 4 inserted**

After section 120

*insert*

**Division 4 Attorney-General and Police Legislation  
Amendment Act 2025****121 Application of amendments to section 35**

(1) The amendments made to section 35 by the amending Act do not apply in relation to an application for a permit that was made, but not decided, before the commencement.

(2) Section 35, as in force immediately before the commencement, continues to apply in relation to an application mentioned in subsection (1).

(3) In this section:

**amending Act** means the *Attorney-General and Police Legislation Amendment Act 2025*.

**commencement** means the commencement of section 4 of the amending Act.

## Part 3                      Amendment of Information Act 2002

### 6                      Act amended

This Part amends the *Information Act 2002*.

### 7                      Section 5 amended (Public sector organisations)

(1) Section 5(6)

*omit*

and a parliamentary secretary

(2) Section 5(6)

*omit*

or parliamentary secretary

(3) After section 5(6)

*insert*

(6A) To avoid doubt, for Part 3, a minister and a member of the staff of a minister (each a **ministerial entity**) is not a public sector organisation in relation to recorded information in any form, (including data in a computer system), including a part or copy of that information, held by the ministerial entity that:

(a) was created or received by the ministerial entity; and

(b) has not been shared with or provided to a public sector organisation other than another ministerial entity.

**8 Section 11 amended (Information about public sector organisations)**

Section 11(4), definition *public sector organisation*, paragraphs (a) and (b)

*omit*

**9 Section 55 amended (Confidentiality obligations, confidential sources)**

Section 55(2)(a)(i) and (ii)

*omit*

or parliamentary secretary

**10 Part 15 inserted**

Before Schedule 1

*insert*

**Part 15 Transitional matter for Attorney-General and Police Legislation Amendment Act 2025****168 Application of amendment to section 5**

Section 5(6A) applies in relation to information created or received by a ministerial entity, as defined in that subsection, before or after the commencement of section 7 of the *Attorney-General and Police Legislation Amendment Act 2025*.

**Part 4 Amendment of Police Administration Act 1978****11 Act amended**

This Part amends the *Police Administration Act 1978*.

**12 Section 4 amended (Interpretation)**

Section 4(1), definition *merit*, after "Force"

*insert*

under Part II, Division 3

**13 Section 6A inserted**

Before section 7, in Part II, Division 2

*insert*

**6A Principles for appointment**

- (1) In appointing a person to an office under this Division, the merit of the person is to be the primary, but not the sole, consideration.
- (2) For subsection (1), the merit of a person for appointment to an office under this Division means the capacity of the person to perform the duties of the office, having regard to the person's:
  - (a) knowledge, skills, qualifications and experience; and
  - (b) aptitude, diligence, good conduct and quality of service; and
  - (c) potential for further development in the Police Force.

**14 Section 15A amended (Merit for appointment or promotion)**

Section 15A, after "Force"

*insert*

under this Division

**Part 5 Amendment of Public Trustee Act 1979****15 Act amended**

This Part amends the *Public Trustee Act 1979*.

**16 Section 8 amended (Appointment of Public Trustee)**

- (1) After section 8(1)

*insert*

- (1A) The Public Trustee holds office on the conditions (including remuneration, expenses and allowances) determined by the Administrator.

(2) After section 8(2)

*omit*

Administrator may appoint a person

*insert*

Minister may appoint a public sector employee

**17 Part X inserted**

After section 101

*insert*

**Part X Transitional matter for Attorney-General and  
Police Legislation Amendment Act 2025**

**102 Application of amendment to section 8**

Section 8(1A) does not apply in relation to the person holding office as the Public Trustee immediately before the commencement of section 16 of the *Attorney-General and Police Legislation Amendment Act 2025*.

**Part 6 Act repealed**

**18 Repeal of Act**

This Act is repealed on the day after it commences.