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Gun found in Queanbeyan high school after shot fired at Fergus Road house

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A gun has been found at a high school in Queanbeyan and police believe it might be connected to a shot fired at a home in Fergus Road last week.

Police were called to a property on Fergus Road about 2am on Wednesday last week, after receiving reports a gun had been fired at a house. The occupants, a 31-year-old man, an 18-year-old man and a 17-year-old girl, were uninjured.



A shot was allegedly fired at the window of a Fergus Street home. KARLEEN MINNEY

Paul John Barnes, 46, was remanded in custody when he appeared in Queanbeyan Local Court on Monday charged with 10 offences, including stalking and assault,

some of which relate to the incident at Fergus Road.

In court, police prosecutor Anthony Strik told Magistrate Mark Douglass a gun had been found at a Queanbeyan high school, which was not identified, about 9am on Monday.

Mr Strik said police found the shotgun, with a cartridge, although at the time of the court hearing no DNA analysis had been conducted.

"It is currently being done, but will take some time," he told the court.

[Barnes first appeared in court on Thursday](#) last week, when he was also remanded in custody.

In court on Monday, he entered pleas of not guilty for seven offences, all of which related to assault, stalking and intimidation.

Pleas of guilty were entered for three offences relating to cultivation and possession of a prohibited drug, cannabis.

Solicitor Rosemary Benet told the court that while Barnes had a criminal history, he had "settled down" in recent years to provide a stable home for his partner and 11-year-old son.

She said there was no evidence before the court that could connect Barnes to the shooting.

The court was told Barnes had spinal degeneration and had trouble walking.

As Barnes' application for bail was denied, he told the court he was his son's hero.

"Isn't that enough to stay out of trouble?" he said.

He called the alleged victims "bastards" as he talked about how he was going to lose his son.

He said if he could hardly walk because of his disability, how was he able to run from the scene where the gunshot was fired?

Mr Strik opposed bail. He said it was probable Barnes would be sent to jail if found guilty of the crimes. The 31-year-old victim was in a wheelchair and was easily



Bullet marks at the home. KARLEEN MINNEY

spotted if Barnes wanted to find him.

Magistrate Douglass took into account Barnes' "lengthy" criminal history and said there was a strong case against him. He said there was "far too great a risk" for him to be released on bail.

CCTV footage of the court is likely to be reviewed after a man not connected with the case was accused of calling Barnes' partner "a dog" during proceedings.