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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Anti-gun Lobbyists' Mass Shooting Mass Confusion!

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) has dismissed claims by anti-gun lobbyists that Australia's gun laws have prevented mass shootings.

WiSH Chairwoman Samara McPhedran said "The authors, albeit unwittingly, have in fact shown that the downward trend in firearm homicide after 1996 did not differ one bit from the downward trend in firearm homicide before the laws, which included 11 mass shootings over two decades prior to 1996."

"If the laws had impacted on firearm homicide by preventing mass shootings, as the authors are trying to claim, we would expect a significant difference in the rate of decline pre- and post- 1996. As the evidence clearly shows, this did not happen. The actual results of the study contradict the two main authors' own conclusions."

Australia's top criminologists confirm the need for caution, highlighting that the rarity of mass murders in general, let alone mass shootings, makes them an extremely difficult occurrence to predict.

"We simply cannot draw any definite conclusions about mass shootings. What we do know is that Australia's bans and buybacks did not alter the pre-existing downwards trend in firearm homicide. The saddest part is that Australia is not a safer or healthier place, despite the half billion dollars or more spent on buying back legally owned firearms," said Ms McPhedran.

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