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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Gun Control's Mistaken State of Affairs**

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) has expressed disappointment at statements made by the Coalition for Gun Control concerning New South Wales' Firearms Act, and the Genuine Reasons for holding a licence.

WiSH Chairperson, Ms Samara McPhedran explained that "By attempting to blur the lines between legitimate firearms ownership, and wider social problems, prohibitionists provide politicians with an excuse to ignore their social responsibilities. It's easy to demand more laws, but difficult to take a stance on the real problems. Consequently, people in need are missing out on the support they desperately require."

"For example, according to the latest figures from the Australian Institute of Criminology – the Federal Government's own research body – not a single handgun used in homicides in the period 2003/2004 was registered," said Ms McPhedran.

The National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) showed that 96% of firearms used in homicides were unregistered, and that almost 90% of perpetrators were unlicensed. Close to 70% of all homicide perpetrators had a criminal history.

Ms McPhedran went on to say that "Tragically, every time gun prohibitionists demand more laws, bans, and expensive buybacks, they knowingly divert attention away from where it is most needed. We need better support for at-risk youths, to prevent them becoming involved with drugs and crime. It's time to place social responsibility ahead of personal beliefs about legitimate firearms ownership."

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**Chair, International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH)**

**WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE**