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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Coalition for Gun Control Reject Social Responsibility

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) today dismissed as “lacking substance” the National Coalition for Gun Control’s claims that ever-increasing gun laws improve public safety.

WiSH Chairwoman Ms Samara McPhedran said that “Instead of objectively assessing Australian firearms legislation, the Coalition for Gun Control are confusing personal beliefs with facts.”

“We must reject these inappropriately timed demands for politicians to use gun laws as a substitute for genuine social responsibility.”

According to the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), overall rates of homicide and violent crime were unaffected by the 1996 legislative changes.

“Gun prohibitionists are urging further legislation concerning legal firearms ownership, but there is no evidence to support their opinions. They are ignoring the fact that tackling illegally held firearms and associated criminal behaviour is where extra effort is needed.”

AIC figures show that not a single handgun homicide in 2003/2004 was committed with a registered firearm.

“Society’s true scourge is not that of firearms. It is indifference towards mental health, failure to implement effective public policy, and unwillingness to place credible evidence ahead of ideology,” Ms McPhedran finished.

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WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE