



**Media Release
Embargoed until December 8 2008**

Gun Law Study Shows Way Forward for Policy

New research has drawn the line under disagreement over the impact of Australia's gun laws.

Published in the Sydney University journal *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, the study traces strengths and weaknesses of a series of papers on firearms legislation, and highlights best-practice approaches to evidence-based policymaking.

Study co-author and WiSH Chair Dr Samara McPhedran said "In the case of firearms legislation, the studies all point in the same direction – no impact on firearm homicide, and no conclusions about firearm suicides because non-firearm suicides were also falling."

"Unfortunately, research in other areas is not always so consistent, which poses a real challenge to policymaking. To help overcome this, we provide some simple guidelines to enhance knowledge about evidence-based policymaking in this country."

The guidelines include scrutiny of the type of data being used, awareness of the merits and limitations of different analysis methods, and evaluation of the results of multiple studies.

"Sound policy relies on the quality and weight of the evidence. Our study shows that quality and weight of evidence does not come from 'Flimsy Evidence Appearing Real'. This is a predictable trick of anti-gun extremists, who present flawed conclusions designed to cause FEAR."

Executive summary: <http://www.ic-wish.org/CICJ%20Enhancing%20EBP%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>

Contact:

Dr Samara McPhedran –

0415 963 189/+61 415 963 189

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

www.ic-wish.org

WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE