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Gun Laws Have Failed to Protect Women

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) has welcomed the latest debate concerning firearms legislation and violent crime.

“Leading criminologists clearly recognise that firearms legislation does not represent a solution to crime and violence, and we commend this as a positive step towards encouraging genuine social responsibility,” said WiSH Chairwoman Ms Samara McPhedran.

Firearm homicides were declining well before the 1996 gun laws, and the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research has indicated that a heroin shortage and effective policing, rather than handgun legislation, reduced handgun misuse and armed robbery.

Ms McPhedran explained that “Gun prohibitionists have traded heavily on the inaccurate belief that ever-increasing firearms legislation can reduce violence and protect women. The statistics show these claims for the fallacy they are. It’s easy to be tough on guns, or blame firearms for social problems, but it’s difficult to address complex issues like domestic abuse and substance dependence.”

Rates of sexual assault and violence against women have risen since 1996. In the 2003/2004 financial year, 48% of all women seeking emergency accommodation were turned away due to resource shortfalls.

“Tragically, anti-gun lobbyists have provided politicians with excuses to avoid addressing women’s wellbeing. Ongoing demands for more laws, bans, and buybacks have done little but divert attention from areas where it is truly needed, such as emergency accommodation and healthcare,” finished Ms McPhedran.

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WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE