



Media Release September 4 2008

Study: Australia's Gun Laws Had No Tangible Effect

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) have welcomed the release of a Melbourne Institute discussion paper investigating the effects of Australia's 1996 firearms legislation.

The authors applied a range of different statistical tests to data spanning the years 1915-2004. They did not find evidence of an impact of the 1996 gun laws on firearm homicide or firearm suicide.

The report concludes that "the high expenditure incurred to fund the 1996 gun buyback has not translated into any tangible reductions in terms of firearm deaths."

"Yet again, research shows that the half billion dollars spent on destroying legally owned firearms did not deliver the promised public health and safety outcomes," said WiSH Chair Dr Samara McPhedran.

The findings confirm the earlier work of Dr McPhedran and her colleague Dr Jeanine Baker, whose peer-reviewed study "Gun laws and sudden death: Did the Australian firearms legislation of 1996 make a difference?" was published in the prestigious British Journal of Criminology in 2006.

Reference:

<http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/wp/wp2008n17.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