



**Media Release January 16 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Gun Prohibitionists Accept Baker and McPhedran Results

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) welcomes anti-gun lobbyists' admission that *Gun Laws and Sudden Death: Did the Australian Firearms Legislation of 1996 Make a Difference?* (British Journal of Criminology, October 2006) is an important research article.

WiSH Chair and study co-author Ms Samara McPhedran said "Gun prohibitionists' acknowledgement that good academic credentials and firearms ownership co-exist shows improved acceptance of the facts. We congratulate them for taking this difficult step."

An ever-increasing body of research shows that the bans and buyback of 1996, costing an estimated \$500 million, did not impact on already declining firearm homicide rates.

"Good policy comes from evidence, not opinion. For too long, constructive debate has been impeded by anti-gun lobbyists' efforts to cast as 'dishonest' any research that contradicts their ideological position," said Ms McPhedran.

Recent work confirms Baker and McPhedran's earlier findings. Dr Don Weatherburn, Director of the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, compared the two reports and noted that "...neither found any significant difference in the rate of decline in gun homicide before and after the gun buyback."

Contact:

Ms Samara McPhedran – 0415 963 189/+61 415 963 189

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

Dr Jeanine Baker – 0427 186 184/+61 427 186 184

Director, Research and Policy Unit, SSAA (SA) Inc.

References

British Journal of Criminology: <http://bjc.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/azl084v1>

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

Gun Control Australia: <http://www.guncontrol.org.au/index.php?article=85>

WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE