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Gun Prohibitionists Admit Buyback Failure

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) has labelled Australian gun prohibitionists' weekend admission that the \$500 million 'buyback' of 1996 failed to deliver public safety outcomes as "long overdue".

Recent research shows that the prohibition of semi-automatic rifles and semi-automatic and pump action shotguns failed to impact on already declining rates of firearm homicide in Australia.

"The removal of over 640 000 firearms from legal owners did not make Australia safer. This is deeply saddening, not least because of the massive misdirection of public money the scheme has come to represent," said WiSH Chairwoman Samara McPhedran.

According to National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) Annual Reports released by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), the overwhelming majority of firearms used to commit homicide in Australia are not legally owned.

Ms McPhedran said "The admission that the buyback made no difference reveals deep rifts between gun prohibitionists. One faction clings dogmatically to the belief that the bans and buyback improved public safety, whereas more moderate elements realise they can no longer deny growing evidence to the contrary."

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

References

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