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Handgun Ban or Helping Police – a Simple Choice

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) have dismissed as “over-reaction” gun prohibitionists’ demands for handgun bans in Australia following school shootings in the United States.

WiSH Chairwoman Samara McPhedran said “It is impossible to compare the USA with Australia, either for legislative requirements or culture. Unfortunately, gun prohibitionists appear geographically naïve when it comes to facts and figures.”

Criminologists now acknowledge that bans and buybacks of legally owned firearms do not address gun crime. According to the Australian Institute of Criminology, over 90% of firearms used to commit homicide are illegally possessed.

Out of more than 2.5 million legally owned, registered firearms in Australia, there were just 318 incidents of theft (664 firearms, or 0.03% of all legally owned firearms) over a six month study period in 2004. Five stolen firearms were subsequently used to commit a crime. None were handguns.

“More taxpayer funded buybacks of legally owned firearms, or more money for putting police on the streets to catch criminals. It seems a simple choice,” Ms McPhedran said.

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

www.ic-wish.org

Reference:

Firearms Theft in Australia: a six month exploratory analysis

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tbp/tbp020/>

WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE