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Increase in Female Homicide Victims a Worrying Finding

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) today described the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) finding of an increase in female homicide victimisation as “deeply troubling”.

“The AIC clearly state that male intimate partners pose the greatest risk to women, so the worrying rise in homicide victimisation of women should serve as a wake up call for policy-makers,” said WiSH Chair Dr Samara McPhedran.

The latest National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) shows an increase in female victimisation from 33 per cent of victims (87 women) in 2004-2005, to 38 per cent of victims (113 women) in 2005-2006.

“There is an ongoing, unmet need to deliver real assistance to women trying to escape violent relationships, and unless this need is addressed we may see further increases in the number of women killed each year,” said Dr McPhedran.

“The need for aid is particularly important in remote regions of Australia. We urge authorities to support police initiatives, such as the Violent Crime Reduction Strategy (VCRS) in the Northern Territory, and expand these initiatives by funding programs that provide shelter, employment and education for women seeking to leave abusive relationships.”

Women were most likely to be stabbed (34%) or beaten to death (28%). This is consistent with previous reports.

There was an overall increase in all homicides of 14% since 2004-2005.

Over the 17 year data period held by the NHMP, homicide has fluctuated from a low of 1.3 per 100 000 persons, to a high of 2.0.

The current Australian homicide rate is 1.5 per 100 000 population.

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WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE