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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Lack of Resources Contributes to Domestic Violence Deaths

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) today expressed serious concern at the 50 per cent increase in domestic violence in New South Wales since 1997. In NSW, there have been 14 deaths arising from domestic violence in 2006 alone.

“The New South Wales Ombudsman found that over 35 per cent of all assaults in that state relate to intimate partner violence. His report highlights a range of shortcomings in a system that is clearly failing women and children,” said WiSH Chairwoman, Samara McPhedran.

“Once again, we see damning evidence of insufficient resource allocation to reduce the incidence of violence against women, poor access to services, and a lack of recognition of the need to better assist police who attend family violence incidents.”

71 per cent of domestic violence victims were women. Indigenous women were six times more likely to experience assault from an intimate partner.

Ms McPhedran said “Domestic violence is our national shame. It is up to us, as a community, to keep pressure on our politicians and ensure that they do not ignore the need for improved support for women. Helping women escape from violent relationships is paramount.”

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

Reference:

Domestic Violence: Improving Police Practice:

<http://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/publication/PDF/specialreport/DV%20Improving%20police%20practice%20dec%202006.pdf>

WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE