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More Gun Bans, More of the Same

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) has dismissed gun prohibitionists' demands for yet another round of bans and buybacks in Australia.

WiSH Chair, Dr Samara McPhedran, said "Predictably, anti-gun lobbyists are exploiting tragedy in the United States to peddle their unrelated agenda of prohibition in Australia."

The bans and AU\$500 million gun buyback of 1996 had no impact on the pre-existing downwards trend in firearm homicide in Australia. Handgun crime was declining prior to the 2002 bans and buyback. According to the Australian Institute of Criminology the vast majority of firearm homicides are committed by unlicensed persons using unregistered firearms.

"After two rounds of bans and costly buybacks, gun prohibitionists still trot out the tired old line that more laws are needed because the existing laws did nothing to reduce illegal firearms use."

"It is like saying that because wearing a seatbelt has not fixed poor road conditions, we should wear two or even three seatbelts and hope that might make a difference," said Dr McPhedran.

"Anti-gun lobbyists seem unable to comprehend that complex social problems cannot be addressed by ever-increasing regulations on the compliant."

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