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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NZ Greens Disappoint on Firearms Safety

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) has expressed disappointment with New Zealand Greens Police Spokesman Keith Locke for rejecting a cooperative approach to firearms safety.

Mr Locke has opposed this week's Firearms Safety Seminar in Christchurch, on the grounds that a selection of speakers have criticised particular models and aspects of firearms legislation.

WiSH Chairwoman Ms Samara McPhedran said that "Firearms safety initiatives must be evidence-based. It is essential that resources and attention be directed where they will make a positive difference, rather than where gun prohibitionists decide best suits their particular opinions."

Speakers from around the world will present peer-reviewed research addressing firearms use and misuse, safety, legislation, and policing. Emphasis is upon inclusive methods of promoting firearms safety. The seminar has the participation of the New Zealand Police.

"For some, gun control means rejecting research unless it explicitly supports one's own views. For most, however, gun control is about exchanging ideas, critically examining data, and engaging in open debate."

"Unfortunately, Mr Locke appears to believe that anyone who contradicts his personal beliefs should not be permitted to speak. This is not the way to achieve beneficial outcomes," Ms McPhedran stated.

Reference: Gun Safety Conference Under Fire (<http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/411319/664070>)

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