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### **New Government Study Confirms Low Rate of Gun Theft**

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) has described *Firearms Theft in Australia: 2004-05* (released by the Australian Institute of Criminology) as an important contribution to knowledge.

“Gun prohibitionists like to say that thousands and thousands of firearms are stolen from private owners each year, and that all stolen firearms are invariably used in crimes. The facts tell us something completely different on both counts,” said WiSH Chair Dr Samara McPhedran.

Firearms theft has continued its ongoing downward trend. Firearms theft accounted for 0.09% of all reported theft incidents. Stolen firearms represented 0.06% of all registered firearms in Australia.

Over a twelve month period there were 668 incidents of theft (n = 1470), from a variety of sources. Available information shows that fourteen stolen firearms were later linked with a crime (suicide included).

“This points to the outdated nature of anti-gun lobbyists’ claims that the blackmarket in guns is dependent on theft from private owners. Recent allegations of diversion from the military highlight this issue.”

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**Reference:**

AIC - Firearms Theft in Australia 2004-05:

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/73/index.html>

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