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Valentine's Day Shooting Raises Questions About "Tough Laws"

The tragic Valentine's day shooting in Gulgong, New South Wales, raises serious questions about whether Police have the resources needed to enforce the law, say the International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH).

"Although the details are unclear, it appears there was a publicly known history of bad blood between the two men. Reports indicate that the alleged perpetrator had previously threatened to shoot the victim during an altercation," said WiSH Chair Samara McPhedran.

If the shooter held a firearms licence, which has not yet been revealed, such behaviour would contravene licensing requirements.

"It is all well and good to boast that Australia has tough gun laws. Unfortunately, the massive amount of paperwork those tough laws insist is needed to monitor the compliant means a reduced capacity to enforce the more commonsense elements of legislation," said Ms McPhedran.

"As a result of Australia's gun laws, Police must spend hundreds of hours processing paperwork about how many times a licensed firearms owner visits a range each year. In light of weighty bureaucratic burdens, it is unsurprising that serious incidents involving firearms can slip under the radar, if indeed they are reported."

Contact:

Ms Samara McPhedran – 0415 963 189/+61 415 963 189

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

www.ic-wish.org

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