

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## GUN CONTROL - FACT OR FANTASY?

During the last few weeks Melbourne residents have been subjected to the sound of gunfire as criminals defy attempts to eliminate illegal ownership and criminal use of firearms.

Mr Karel Zegers, spokesperson for the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Vic) said today, "The SSAA (Vic), representing law-abiding gun owners in Victoria, wants to expose the failure of recent gun buybacks and hastily prepared legislation. The SSAA has always stated that confiscating guns from Sporting Shooters would not reduce murder and mayhem, as is again demonstrated by the recent shootings during broad daylight in Melbourne".

"It is glaringly obvious that the public have been sold a total fantasy when Governments follow the dogmatic policy that, "less firearms means less crime". There is absolutely no evidence from anywhere that even indirectly supports a case that firearms registration, amnesties and buybacks have any effect at all on criminal behavior or the reduction of firearm related crimes. The bottom line is that criminal elements in any society tend to ignore the law - that is why they are called criminals" Mr Zegers said.

"It is also noteworthy that Gun Control Australia, a group promoting firearm confiscation, are nowhere to be seen or heard during these very public shootings. The SSAA (Vic) is appalled at the statement made on national TV by Gun Control Australia "We (Gun Control Australia) are not interested in guns held by criminals." If Gun Control Australia is not interested in people regularly being killed by criminal gunmen, why then are they so interested in guns that overwhelmingly do NOT kill people? Why is Gun Control Australia not concerned about gun related fatalities so brazenly performed by criminals using un-registered illegal guns? Who needs Gun Control Australia when they have no interest in Un-Controlled Guns?"

Mr Zegers continued, "Sporting Shooters obey the laws and for their conscientious behavior, they are denied access to a large range of sporting firearms. They can be legally subjected to random police inspections of their homes. Their favorite sport and pastime is subjected to senseless restrictions, all of which are reducing their international competitiveness. What is right about Laws directed at the wrong people?"

The conclusion is that the Governments policies and buybacks have been both an abject failure and a complete waste of tens of millions of taxpayers dollars. This money should have been spent on hospitals, education and increased police resources to tackle the real criminals.

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