



MEDIA RELEASE

PM's views on firearms off target

Immediate Release

April 28th 2006

The President of SSAA(Vic) Mr Bob Cooper today released this statement on behalf of the SSAA(Vic):

Our Prime Minister says; "More work needs to be done" (on firearms issues), I do agree, more work needs to be done in the following areas:

- a) To have a proper enquiry into the Port Arthur tragedy so that all may be assured the correct steps (including firearms law) have been taken.
- b) To convince us and the public that he is not duplicitous in congratulating those Olympic and Commonwealth Games medal winners, then attacking their sport relentlessly.
- c) To have the Prime Minister accept the A.B.S figures which clearly demonstrate that attacking and restricting legitimate firearms owners has had, and will have no affect on firearms crime.
- d) To ensure persons who are not Australian Citizens, cannot readily obtain firearms legally. They can and do at present.
- e) To ensure some politicians stop feeding the Media frenzy which has legitimate recreational firearms owners marginalized as moral pariahs within our society.

"Although most of the restrictions within current legislation are considered reasonable, some elements (guilt before proof and penalty levels) are quite outrageous and unjust", he said.

"I believe persons such as Mr Beasley and Barnaby Joyce, are taking a rationale approach to this issue and should be the ones listened to on this subject", he continued. "There is absolutely no need for further restrictions on firearms ownership in Australia. Official Statistics and commonsense support that position."

For more information on the programs that the SSAA (Vic) offer, contact the Victorian SSAA headquarters on 03 8892 2777 or visit our website at www.ssaavic.com.au.

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