

Andrew CHATTINGTON

Committee Secretariat contact:
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

15.07.2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in relation to the enquiry re 'The ability of Australian Law Enforcement Authorities to eliminate gun-related violence in the community'. I would like to specifically address points 5, 6 & 7.

Point 5 – Most illegally held firearms are not stolen or acquired from registered, law abiding shooters. Why focus on semi auto handguns? Governments find it all too easy to focus on the law abiding shooter when the problem lies with that small minority of the population who do not follow our laws and obtain their firearms illegally from overseas. If you took every lawfully owned semi auto firearm, from every registered shooter, and destroyed them you would still have those illegal firearms out on the street.

Point 6 – Our storage requirements are adequate as is and in Victoria, if you have more than 14 firearms, an effective electronic alarm system must be fitted to the home already. If you want to tighten up the requirements then get every other state to follow Victoria's laws. They are fair, under the circumstances, and do not penalize law abiding citizens.

Point 7 – We have had a number of buybacks, two in Victoria amongst the other states buybacks, and each time all the states were going to get together and form a Federal set of laws. This has not happened. Victoria has a Firearms Act which does not substantially discriminate against its law abiding shooters. Yes, as shooters, we miss our old freedoms but we have managed to work with our Licensing Dept. and come to agreement that does not unduly limit us to what we can do. **Note that there has been a dialog between shooting organizations and the regulatory authority in Victoria.** As a shooter who travels to at least three other states and a territory I am made well aware that this liaison does not exist in these other states. Shooters are treated as second class citizens and in some respects like criminals because they chose to take part in a sporting activity that involves firearms. We are not the problem, criminals are.

I am a retired Victoria Police Officer, of 26 years' service, during which I spent over 20 years as both a full time & part time firearms instructor. I have also served in both the Royal Navy & the Royal Australian Navy during which the use of firearms was part of my duties.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Chattington