



*Media Release – 24 December 2003 Contact: Sebastian Ziccone*

## **MEDIA REPORTING UNDER SHOOTER'S SCRUTINY**

Shooters say a clampdown is needed on media outlets publishing stories involving firearms.

The call comes after a story appeared in the Herald Sun involving a junior whose attempts to obtain a junior shooter licence were rejected.

CFCV President, Sebastian Ziccone, said that the article wrongly implied junior shooters licences allowed juniors to own firearms. Junior shooter licences only allow persons under 18 to use firearms owned by a person holding an adult or corporate shooters licence, under strict supervision requirements.

"The headline on the front page, 'Give my boy a gun' and other references on the same page, could, in our opinion, give the impression that a junior shooter's licence allows a junior to own a firearm." Correct information relating to junior licences was published on page 4.

Mr Ziccone said the Herald Sun has run other front page stories on firearms which have required varying degrees of correction.

"Legislators need to come up with effective ways to curtail incorrect reporting of firearm related stories in particular."

Mr Ziccone said that The Age, provided more accurate coverage of firearm related issues.

For more information: Sebastian Ziccone, President CFCV