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Contact: Sebastian Ziccone

HANDGUN FEES UNDER FIRE AS ‘BREEDING INEFFICIENCY’

New handgun licence fees which came into effect today [1 January] have come under fire as ‘breeding inefficiency’ from the State's leading shooting body.

Sebastian Ziccone from the Combined Firearms Council of Victoria says that the fees are unlikely to satisfy the 'cost / benefits' requirement under state legislation, and will stop people from taking up the shooting sports.

"The new fees reflect expensive and breeding inefficient regulatory processes rather than providing a public benefit," he said.

People wanting to take up handgun shooting sports as a probationary licence holder will pay \$75 for police checks which are repeated six months later. By comparison, a ‘one off’ police check for employment costs just \$12.

Shooters who go on to obtain a full shooters licence will pay licence fees which increase by \$13 to \$45 per year. Permits to acquire handguns have increased by over 300% and new 'club' licences have been introduced to further raise revenue.

"What the Government has done is set up an expensive process of duplication propped up by regulations aimed at supporting inefficiency. It does nothing for public safety as probationary members cannot own firearms. This should be of concern to every member of the community and Parliament," Mr Ziccone said.

"Legislation relating to subordinate legal instruments stipulates that regulations need to be able to stand up on cost and benefits basis. The new handgun regulations clearly do not do this."

"The community as a whole stands to suffer from what are becoming increasingly ineffective firearm laws"

For more information: Sebastian Ziccone, President CFCV

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