



VIC LIBS CHALLENGED OVER PM'S HANDGUN COMMENTS

The Combined Firearms Council of Victoria has branded the Prime Minister's push for a ban on handguns prior to last week's 10th anniversary of the Port Arthur tragedy as irresponsible, and has challenged the Victorian Liberal Party to reject his comments.

"The Prime Minister has dealt with the gun issue in exactly the same way as he dealt with the children overboard and AWB issues," said CFCV Vice President, Bob Cooper.

"He jumped at a political opportunity without bothering to find out what the facts are."

"It is ironic that only a month ago he congratulated pistol shooters on winning medals at the Commonwealth Games, and is now looking to take their guns away from them."

Mr Cooper has challenged the Victorian Liberal Party to rebuff the Prime Minister's suggestion ahead of this year's Victorian state election.

Mr Cooper said that legal handgun ownership in Australia was not a problem and this is borne out by the safety record of organised shooting sports. He said the majority of statistics quoted relating to fatalities and injuries relate to the use of illegal handguns.

"It concerns me that we have a Prime Minister who is prepared to take the political high ground without any form of consultation or checking of facts."

"Instead he has relied on a report compiled by known anti-gun lobbyists and used their claims as a possible basis for further restrictions on handguns a month after congratulating athletes representing Australia."

"Where is the State Liberal Party on this matter ?"

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