



GUN LICENCE CONCERNS GROSSLY EXAGGERATED

Shooters say an increase in the number of firearms and firearm licences is nothing to be concerned about.

President of the Combined Firearms Council of Victoria, Bill Paterson, said the reporting of increased numbers by Gun Control Australia ignored some basic underlying facts but highlighted its real agenda.

“Gun Control Australia has now shown its hand, they advocate tighter gun licensing, not for public safety but because they believed it would result in a great reduction in gun ownership. It hasn't, for the simple reason that people with a genuine reason for owning a gun are prepared to put the effort in to comply with the strict license requirements,” he said.

“Getting a gun licence is about the most complicated type of licence you could obtain, probably second to getting a licence to fly an airplane”

Many shooters have more than one licence, as they are split up into categories according to what the shooter wishes to do. For example, someone with a .22 calibre target rifle and a larger calibre hunting rifle will require separate licences for each firearm, so there is a considerable amount of double counting in the figures.

“It is not as simple as Mr Crook has said. The pass rate is high because aspiring shooters know that they have to put the work in to pass, as well as satisfying the checks undertaken to ensure they are suitable to hold a licence in the first place,” he said.

“The impressive safety record of the shooting sports is probably the best indicator of all about the adequacy of the licence testing process that we have in place.”

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