



## What we believe

The Shooters and Fishers Party believe that for too long, law abiding firearm owners have borne the brunt of poorly-considered, knee-jerk reactions to gun crime by Commonwealth and State/Territory Government.

With Government opting for good headlines over good policy, Australia's law abiding firearm community has been burdened with increasingly oppressive regulation while gun crime, particularly in inner city areas, has continued unaffected by new or existing legislation.

The Shooters and Fishers Firearm Policy is based around one central theme:  
**Criminals DO NOT obey the law !**

With this theme in mind the Shooters and Fishers Party calls on all levels of Government to work *with* law abiding firearm owners to develop truly effective laws that don't unduly burden hundreds of thousands of Australians who use firearms safely and responsibly – whether for sport, protecting primary industries from pests, hunting or helping protect and conserve the environment.

Existing Australian firearm laws that have demonstrably failed to achieve their goals should be amended or repealed.

The Shooters and Fishers Party concurs with the position of the Attorney-General's Department of NSW, in its recent submission to the Senate Inquiry into gun-related violence<sup>1</sup>:

***“...putting additional restrictions on the legal ownership of firearms would not necessarily reduce firearm-related crime.”***

**Shooters and Fishers Party**

**August 2014**

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<sup>1</sup> Attorney-General's Department 2014. Submission to the Senate Inquiry: The ability of Australian law enforcement authorities to eliminate gun-related violence in the community (Submission 42). [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal\\_and\\_Constitutional\\_Affairs/Illicit\\_firearms](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal_and_Constitutional_Affairs/Illicit_firearms)

# Action Plan

## The Shooters and Fishers Party commits to:

- Supporting ALL law abiding firearm owners regardless of their chosen discipline or shooting interests.
- Repealing the 1996 National Firearms Agreement on the basis that the NFA has failed to increase public safety and has not had any large effects on reducing firearm homicide or suicide rates<sup>2</sup>.
- Following the Canadian example and abolishing the registration of Category A and B firearms with savings to be re-invested into front line crime prevention strategies.
- Removing the current requirement for registration of Air Rifles and Paintball markers.
- Repealing the Firearms Amendment (Ammunition Control) Bill 2012 amendments that inconveniences law abiding firearm owners and increases the risk of crime against firearms dealers.
- Establishing the 'genuine reason' of Family and Personal Protection for lawful possession of a firearm.
- Offering firearms safety training and practical range experience as an approved school elective subject and introduce a TAFE course to train and accredit Gunsmiths.
- Introducing mandatory sentencing for criminals who use a firearm in the commission of a serious offence.
- Supporting the establishment of new ranges to accommodate the increasing number of new shooters, while retaining and enhancing all existing facilities.
- Introduce laws and exemptions for past or serving defence force personnel, to grant licences and registration of firearms free of any fees. Streamline and exempt these personnel from normal checks by giving them special treatment in recognition of their service and or injury.

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<sup>2</sup> Lee W-S, and Suardi S. 2008. The Australian Firearms Buyback and Its Effect on Gun Deaths\* 2008. The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, Working Paper No. 17/08, University of Melbourne.

[http://melbourneinstitute.com/downloads/working\\_paper\\_series/wp2008n17.pdf](http://melbourneinstitute.com/downloads/working_paper_series/wp2008n17.pdf)

- Remove restrictions on the lawful possession, ownership and use of sound moderators (commonly, but incorrectly called “silencers”) by licensed shooters.

## **What this means for you**

The Shooters and Fishers Party are committed to protecting the rights of ALL law abiding firearm owners, regardless of their chosen discipline, competition, club membership, age, gender or ability.

Recognising that some laws in regards to firearms are necessary, we will work to balance these laws with the rights of law abiding firearm owners.

The Shooters and Fishers Party will continue to promote the great work being performed by hundreds of shooting and hunting clubs across the country as well as those individual members who represent our Clubs, State and country with such distinction at National and International competitions.