

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Cameron Beale, I am a Secondary School PE/Science teacher living in the city of Moreland (Melbourne) and a registered firearm owner.

I write to strongly encourage the Committee to look at the issues in a factual and non-emotive manner and make judgments only on adequate and factual information.

The terms of reference of the Committee are too limited. Hunters and shooters like myself make significant environmental, economic and social contributions to the community and there needs to be an understanding what impacts regulations to make legal gun ownership even more limited, costly and difficult would have on these contributions.

Statistics produced with regards to the source of gun crime being stolen, legally owned guns have proven unsubstantiated. Also, statistics of firearm registries concerning firearms and records of licenses are unreliable at best. Handguns are the least stolen firearm and the major source of illicit handguns (loopholes in Queensland and NSW) have already been addressed.

**The committee should concentrate on the almost exclusive cause of gun-related violence which is the link between guns used in crimes and drugs. More resources need to be put into this difficult problem rather than wasting time attacking soft targets like legal, law abiding, educated gun owners like myself!!**

Regards

Cameron Beale