

SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (SA) INC.

******MEDIA RELEASE******

Research: Illegally sourced firearms still the problem

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The SSAA (SA) welcome the latest release on homicide from the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) as an important reference on homicide trends in Australia.¹

SSAA SA spokesperson, Dr Jeanine Baker, said "This AIC release shows that the majority of persons who commit murder using a firearm are not licensed. However, it is still concerning that individuals who have been denied access to firearms were able to source illicit firearms."

"It is pleasing to see the safe storage programs initiated by sport shooting associations are effective. Only two firearms used in homicides are suspected of being stolen, and we do not know whether these were stolen from private homes, the security industry or the police," Dr Baker said.

These findings emphasise that it is time to focus on how firearms are being smuggled into Australia.²

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Sources:

Research and Public Policy Series No. 77 Homicide in Australia: 2005–06 National Homicide Monitoring Program annual report.

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/in-depth/the-death-dealers/2007/06/23/11>