

### Background

- Australia's National Firearms Agreement (NFA), adopted in 1996, consists of a series of resolutions based largely on recommendations made by the National Committee on Violence (NCV; active between 1988 and 1989).
- The NFA continues to be used to justify a range of policy decisions concerning firearms, at both the state and federal levels of government.

### Position Statement

- The NFA is an obsolete document.
- Its resolutions are based on the very limited information about firearms misuse that was available in the late 1980s and early 1990s (that is, over two decades ago).
- NCV recommendations, on which most NFA resolutions were based, relied heavily on anecdotal evidence and/or unsubstantiated opinions.
- In some instances, NFA resolutions replicated practices from other countries (for example, longarm registration in Canada's Firearms Act 1995) which have since been abandoned due to a lack of impact on public safety and excessive administrative costs.
- Evaluations have found little or no evidence to support the effectiveness of many key NFA resolutions, particularly in terms of crime prevention and violence reduction.
- The majority of NFA resolutions do not accord with advances in knowledge since 1996 about what does, and does not, have an impact on reducing firearms misuse and violence in general.
- By relying on outdated data, theory and practice, and lacking evidence to demonstrate its efficacy, the NFA represents a flawed basis for future decision-making.
- Consequently, the NFA should no longer be used as a foundation for decisions around firearms policy in Australia.