

Re: Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Bill

The Australasian Injury Prevention Network (AIPN) is the peak body in Australia and New Zealand advocating for injury prevention and safety promotion, and represents injury researchers, policy makers and practitioners across Australia and New Zealand.

The AIPN is strongly supportive of strict gun control and as such, vehemently supports the New Zealand Parliament Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Bill that aims to tighten gun control in New Zealand; in particular, the removal of semi-automatic firearms from circulation and use by the general population in New Zealand.

In response to the 1996 Port Arthur tragedy in Australia, major gun law reforms were enacted that prevented mass shootings and resulted in a clear reduction in suicide and homicide numbers and rates.^{1,2} The severe restrictions placed on ownership and importation of semi- and automatic weapons have significantly contributed to these successes.

In light of the unequivocal evidence in support of gun control as a strategy to reduce gun-related violence, the AIPN is strongly supportive of the changes to the Arms Amendment Bill and believes these efforts to reduce gun ownership and eliminate certain firearms will continue to improve community safety for all New Zealanders.

Kind regards,



Dr Ben Beck
President of the Australasian Injury Prevention Network

References

1. Chapman, Simon, et al. "Australia's 1996 gun law reforms: faster falls in firearm deaths, firearm suicides, and a decade without mass shootings." *Injury Prevention* 12.6 (2006): 365-372.
2. Chapman, Simon, Philip Alpers, and Michael Jones. "Association between gun law reforms and intentional firearm deaths in Australia, 1979-2013." *JAMA* 316.3 (2016): 291-299.