

For immediate release

24 May 2023

Parents send their children to school expecting them to be safe from harm: A wakeup call for WA

Today's reports of a gun being fired in a local school is a wakeup call to the Western Australian community that action must be taken to prevent this happening again.

Injury Matters Acting Chief Executive, Rachel Meade said that while an incident in Two Rocks this morning resulted in no physical injuries, the impact of any firearm-related violence goes beyond physical, impacting emotional and psychological wellbeing.

"Parents send their children to school expecting them to be safe from harm".

"Firearms should never be in the hands of children."

While Australia has a positive global reputation for firearm controls, firearm-related incidents are not uncommon. Work is required at both legislative and community level to improve awareness of safe firearm ownership, firearm safety and community attitudes.

"Any firearm in the hands of a person with malicious intent, licenced or unlicensed, can cause harm to the WA community". The number of licenced firearms in WA has increased by 60% over the last 13 years, despite the number of WA firearm licensees remaining stable.

The overhaul of WA's outdated Firearm Legislation by the State Government is critical for improving community safety. "Tightening firearms legislation will reduce access to firearms and ammunition in the community and prevent Western Australia's being seriously injured or killed".

"A recent study by WA not-for-profit, Injury Matters, found that one quarter of West Australians are concerned about firearm-related violence. We expect if we ask that question today it would be higher."

"WA needs additional specialised services to support those impacted by traumatic events like Two Rocks today – we need continued support for children, families, schools and first responders".

Injury Matters have been advocating for the prevention of firearm related harm for 25 years to keep Western Australians safe. Injury Matters are Western Australia's injury prevention and recovery specialists.

If you need support, please call LifeLine on 13 11 14.

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