



PISTOL SHOOTING QUEENSLAND

(QUEENSLAND AMATEUR PISTOL SHOOTING ASSOCIATION LTD)

ABN 58 010 284 563

PATRON:

Kevin Rudd MP
Member for Griffith

AFFILIATIONS:

Pistol Australia
Queensland Olympic Council
Queensland Shooting Association
Australian International Shooting Ltd

PRESIDENT:

Michele Sandstrom

ADMINISTRATOR:

Sharyn Petersen

29 June 2010

**Editor
The Courier Mail
Box 130
Brisbane Q 4001**

Dear Sir,

Robyn Ironside's article in yesterday's Courier Mail needs to have a few facts added to give the full, and correct picture on the licensing of Minor shooters in Queensland.

From the perspective of the sport of competitive pistol shooting, the general public needs to know that our young shooters go through quite a rigorous process to attain their Minors' Licence, as do Minors in other shooting disciplines. Our juniors must be a member of a pistol club for 6 months, before applying for their Minors' Licence and in this time abide by all the regulations that our adult members do. That is, they must be supervised one-on-one until they get their Minors Licence; must attend the club to get coaching and safety education at least 3 times in that period and complete a Firearms Safety Course successfully (legislation, safety and practical) before they can apply.

A Minor can only join a shooting club with the permission of a parent or guardian.

All pistol shooters are required to participate at their club a set number of competition times per year to retain their licence.

Minors cannot own a pistol, and can only use firearms on an approved shooting range, under the supervision of a Range Officer, who must be a licensed shooter in that discipline.

Junior pistol shooters, from our association's experience, are a responsible, disciplined, safe and competitive group of young people and many have aspirations to go further in the world of competitive target shooting. It is a sport requiring concentration, discipline, responsibility and dedication – qualities promoted in all sports, but a major requirement in all the shooting sports.

Many of these young people take up the sport because the adults in their family are involved.

The figures, and terminology stating 'licensed to carry' fails to mention that firearms registered for the sport of competitive target shooting can only be taken to and from a registered shooting range, and cannot be used anywhere else. Likewise for the restrictions on property licences.

The shooters with target sport licences are legitimate sport participants, and abide by the many rules, regulations and requirements, to protect their sport and the substantial investment they have made in their chosen activity.

The community can rest assured that all licensed shooters are bound by very tight legislation regarding safety, regulations and match rules: a target sport pistol licence will only be issued for a specific pistol, for a specific, approved event, from a recognised shooting association.

Controls are very tight for all licensed shooters – adult and minor.

Yours sincerely,

Sharyn Petersen

Administrator
Pistol Shooting Qld (QAPSA Ltd)