



# MEDIA RELEASE

**12 May 2015**

## **Deer hunting incident – Mt Buller**

Follow basic rules of firearms safety at all times when handling firearms. That is the message from Mike Spray, Operations Manager for the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Victoria) and Barry Howlett, Executive Officer of the Australian Deer Association after an incident last weekend where a deer hunter was shot and injured by his hunting companion.

The victim was shot after he had separated from his companion. Mr. Spray said, “In the heat of the moment hunters need to positively identify their target beyond all doubt. That means seeing sufficient of the animal to be absolutely sure it is the intended target. Hunters also need to check their firing zone to ensure any projectile that misses the target lands safely”. These are fundamental rules of firearms safety.

Mr. Spray said, “Buck fever is an emotion that can affect hunters to the extent it can override logical thought. Hunters need to be able to recognize buck fever and take the required time to control it, identify the target and check the firing zone before squeezing the trigger”.

Victoria has a long standing tradition of public land hunting and fortunately there are very few hunting related incidents. The vast majority of hunters know and comply with basic safety rules but on occasion hunters can become complacent and this incident is a timely reminder for all hunters to follow basic rules of firearms safety at all times.

**ENDS**

## **NOTES FOR EDITOR**

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