

From: [Mike Milzarek](#)
To: [Todd Buttsworth](#)
Subject: Tasmanian Gun Laws
Date: Friday, 26 October 2018 2:36:46 PM

Dear Mr Buttsworth,

I am a dual citizen of both Australia and America. I grew up in America for approximately 25 years and am now very happy to call Australia and Tasmania my home. I am a proud Tasmanian and am raising 3 young children in Lutana, along with my loving wife.

Because I grew up in America, I may have a different background with concern to guns. A student in the year above me in high school was involved in an incident (luckily not at the high school) and intentionally shot someone. Also, a whole family from my community (including children that went to my school) were brutally murdered with a shotgun.

<http://ubcentral.org/2017/04/30/on-this-day-in-ub-history-april-30-pelley-murders/>

The city I grew up in is approximately the size of Hobart, yet gun deaths and shootings occur there almost every single day. It is an absolute disgrace and the local news doesn't even report these shootings anymore as they are too commonplace. This is, to say the very least, not an ideal situation.

One thing that I love about Australia and Tasmania is the fact that gun violence just doesn't happen here. I was shocked when I first came from the States and was watching the local Tasmanian news and they reported on gun violence in Sydney. I thought to myself "Why do we care? We're in Tasmania and Sydney is a long way from here." It wasn't for another few months of living here that it finally clicked, Australia has so little gun violence that people are concerned about gun violence in other parts of the country.

I feel very safe knowing that my kids will not be the victims of gun violence in Tasmania. Unfortunately I cannot say the same about my sister's children, who are growing up in the United States. There was a gun incident earlier this year in a school very close to where her children attend school. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/may/28/indiana-teacher-stopped-shooter-saved-students> Luckily, no one was killed.

I am very concerned about the possibility that gun laws might be relaxed in Tasmania. I am fortunate enough to call this great state my home and feel very strongly that any relaxing of gun laws would start the slippery slope. This state definitely does not want to go down the same path as the United States, I know that for a fact. No one wants to become a statistic to gun violence and I feel that will be the case if the gun laws are changed. As Tasmanian residents, we do not advocate for the watering down of gun laws and I am personally very opposed to any lessening of these laws.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Sincerely,

Mike Milzarek

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