



Trends & Issues—Referees’ report

Title: **Mass shootings and firearm control: Comparing Australia and the United States**

Referee’s Name: S47F [REDACTED]

Referee’s Affiliation: S47F [REDACTED]

Please check the appropriate score and provide any other comments or suggestions below

Topic	Not at all				Very	Not applicable (or not able to assess).
New/innovative	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Interesting	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Policy relevance	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Appropriate for a T&I	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Relevance	Low				High	
Relevance to Commonwealth	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Relevance to states/territories	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Relevance to criminal justice agencies	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Substance	Poor				Excellent	
Provides good summary of key issues	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Appropriate research design	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Rigorous analysis	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Conclusions supported by evidence	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Style	Poor				Excellent	
Written in plain English	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Logically structured	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Appropriate and up-to-date references	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>

Recommendations (please check box):

1. Accept for publication—no revisions
2. Revisions (please provide details to the authors for revisions)
3. Reject



OTHER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE PAPER, please use pages below for additional comments (these will be sent to the author(s) anonymously)

Additional comments:

The term 'select fire' is unusual. More common is 'selective fire'.

The choice of 'license' and 'licence' are inconsistent. Likewise unnecessary plural forms of 'firearms' and 'weapons'.

Given the reluctance of many to include a deceased perpetrator in any count of 'victims', consider adjusting the definition of 'mass shooting' to exclude those culpable. This seems to be acknowledged in subsequent phrases at pages four to six, but could also perhaps be clarified earlier in the Method section.

This differentiation could also be made clear in the title of Figure 2, 'Number of deaths from gunshot wounds from mass shootings...' and in the text beneath 'with the death of 97 people from gunshot wounds', '576 people died from gunshot' and 'a total of 386 fatalities'.

At page eight, 'reducing the number of ammunition per magazine' could be more clear as 'reducing the number of rounds of ammunition per magazine'. On the same page, '(Partridge 2004)' should read '(Partridge 2014)'.

The paper's final conclusion currently reads:

Firearm controls, such as those that exist in Australia, which restrict access to specific firearms and contain firearm access to persons at risk of committing harm, are an arguably important means of prevention.

Given the ferocity of this debate, it is perhaps understandable to include the word 'arguable'. However this reviewer suggests that even if no mass shootings had taken place in Australia, the passage above would survive without controversy among law enforcement agencies, criminologists and the public alike, with no such qualification. If the word 'arguable' was removed, this passage would also remain an accurate description of the situation and prevailing mood even before Australia tightened its firearm legislation. Perhaps these points could be made.