



News Segment: Pamela Brown (CNN) - Gun Control

This news segment was aired on the 25th of April and looks at gun laws in the United States vis-à-vis Australia. The news anchor suggests that America has a lot to learn from the Australian gun control model. Twenty-five years ago, Australia suffered its worst mass shooting, the Port Arthur massacre, in which 35 people were killed and 23 wounded. Following this event, new gun reform legislation was enacted to prevent such events from happening again.

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Pamela Brown:

Well now to America's pandemic, and that would be the never-ending cycle of gun violence. There have been 157 mass shootings in the US just this year, just in 2021. And with congressional action on gun reform seemingly at a standstill, some Americans are asking if other countries can serve as an example.

Next week makes 25 years since Australia's Port Arthur massacre, a mass shooting that killed 35 people. Afterwards automatic and semi-automatic rifles were banned in Australia. They **enacted**¹ a national registry and a 28-day period for all gun purchases. And 653 thousand firearms were taken out of circulation in a national buyback program.

Gun deaths in the country **plummeted**² and today mass shootings there are nearly non-existent. Compare that to America, the gun capital of the world, where last year there were nearly 12 gun deaths per 100,000 people, more than 14 times that of Australia.

But there are some differences of course. Australia doesn't have a right to **bear**³ arms in their constitution. They also don't have a powerful gun lobby like the **NRA**⁴. Still, could Australia's model have some lessons for the United States?

¹ To enact: (verb) to make something a law

² To plummet: (verb) to fall very quickly and suddenly

³ To bear: (verb) to own and use

⁴ NRA: (noun) acronym – National Rifle Association