

## Mass Gun Killings in Australia, 1971-2019\*

Date	Location	T	F	G	V	P	S	K	W	Name	A	C	M	L
04/06/19	Darwin, NT	M	N	S	4	0	4	4	1	Ben Hoffmann	45	C	U	N
11/05/18	Osmington, WA	MS	Y	R	6	1	7	7	0	Peter Miles	61	U	U	Y
09/09/14	Lockhart, NSW	MS	Y	S	4	1	5	5	0	Geoff Hunt	44	N	N	Y
28/04/96	Port Arthur, TAS	M	N	SR	35	0	35	35	23	Martin Bryant	28	N	N	N
25/01/96	Hillcrest, QLD	MS	Y	R	6	1	7	7	0	Peter May	32	N	N	Y
31/03/93	Cangai, NSW	MS	N	R	5	1	6	6	0	Leabeater/Steele**	41	N	Y	N
27/10/92	Terrigal, NSW	M	Y	S	6	0	6	6	1	Malcolm Baker	45	N	N	Y
17/08/91	Strathfield, NSW	MS	N	SR	6	1	7	8	7	Wade Frankum	33	N	N	Y
30/08/90	Surry Hills, NSW	M	Y	S	5	0	5	5	0	Paul Evers	35	Y	Y	Y
25/09/88	Oenpelli, NT	M	Y	S	6	0	6	6	0	Dennis Rostron	25	N	N	N
08/12/87	Queen St, VIC	MS	N	SR	8	1	9	9	5	Frank Vitkovic	22	N	Y	Y
10/10/87	Canley Vale, NSW	MS	Y	R	5	1	6	6	1	John Tran	23	N	N	Y
09/08/87	Hoddle St, VIC	M	N	SR	7	0	7	7	19	Julian Knight	19	N	N	Y
19/06/87	Top End, NT/WA	M	N	SR	5	1	6	6	0	Josef Schwab	26	Y	N	N
23/01/87	Pymble, NSW	M	N	S	4	0	4	4	0	Richard Maddrell	27	N	Y	Y
<b>Totals***</b>					<b>112</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>57</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
26/04/84	Wahroonga, NSW	MS	Y	R	5	1	6	6	0	John Brandon	42	U	U	U
24/09/81	Campsie, NSW	MS	Y	SR	5	1	6	6	0	Fouad Daoud	U	U	U	Y
06/09/71	Hope Forest, SA	M	Y	SR	10	0	10	10	0	Clifford Bartholomew	40	U	U	U

<b>T</b>	Homicide Type:	M = Murder	MS = Murder/Suicide
<b>F</b>	Homicide occurred during family violence		
<b>G</b>	Gun used (primary weapon):	R = Rifle	S = Shotgun
<b>V</b>	Victims shot dead		
<b>P</b>	Perpetrators shot dead		
<b>S</b>	Total shot dead		
<b>K</b>	Total killed by any means (an additional victim was knifed)		
<b>W</b>	Victims wounded		
<b>A</b>	Age of perpetrator		
<b>C</b>	Perpetrator had a previous conviction for violent crime:	Yes / No / Unknown	
<b>M</b>	Perpetrator had a previous history of mental illness:****	Yes / No / Unknown	
<b>L</b>	Perpetrator was a licensed gun owner:	Yes / No / Unknown	

\* Definitions of mass homicide, including those in USDoJ/FBI reports, have now settled at a threshold of four victims killed.

\*\* These homicides were committed by two perpetrators, Leabeater and Steele. The histories of both men are counted.

\*\*\* As some details in prior years are unknown and more mass shootings may have occurred, totals are tallied only to 1987.

\*\*\*\* A history of mental illness is defined as a detectable DSM5 psychiatric illness either diagnosed, reported to authorities or in any way established prior to the shooting – i.e. minimum sufficient cause to justify legal seizure of firearms.

Note: The Milperra Bikie Massacre of 1984 was not included. Although seven people were shot dead and 21 injured in the Viking Tavern carpark, only a 14 year-old girl who was killed seems to qualify as a victim, while the remaining six were members of rival gangs, i.e. perpetrators.

### Summary

From January 1987 to September 2019, 15 mass shootings in Australia left 120 shot dead and 57 wounded by gunfire. All the perpetrators were men. Police files, judges' summations and coroners' reports show that:

- 51% of the victims were shot by a licensed gun owner
- 82% of the victims were shot by a killer with no previous history of violent crime
- 71% of the victims were shot by a killer with no previous history of mental illness
- 54% of the victims died in a shooting in which a military-style semi-automatic weapon was used

While 19 victims of mass shootings from 1987 to 2019 were killed by men with a known history of mental illness, 52 out of 112 victims were shot by previously law-abiding, licensed male gun owners using legally held firearms.

This table first appeared as Appendix 2 to an article published in [The Conversation](#) on 7 October 2015: *If Lawful Firearm Owners Cause Most Gun Deaths, What Can We Do?* Periodic updates have been added.

[Philip Alpers](#)  
 Director, [GunPolicy.org](#)  
 Adjunct Associate Professor  
[Sydney School of Public Health](#)  
 The University of Sydney  
 Updated 7 October 2019