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Transcript: AMA President Dr Michael Gannon, *Sydney Live with Ben Fordham*, 2GB, Monday 9 October 2017

Subject: Gun control

BEN FORDHAM: Doctors are calling for sporting shooters to store weapons at gun clubs instead of in their homes. The Australian Medical Association says gun clubs are the safest place to store firearms, so in the interest of public safety they want sporting shooters to store their weapons in these gun clubs rather than taking them home. If adopted, it would be the biggest shakeup of gun laws since the Port Arthur massacre.

Dr Michael Gannon, from the Australian Medical Association. He's the President, and he's on the line. Doctor, good afternoon.

MICHAEL GANNON: Good afternoon, Ben, how are you?

BEN FORDHAM: I'm okay. This won't go down well with sporting shooters, you know that.

MICHAEL GANNON: Yeah, it's already gone down poorly. It's part of a statement we made on firearms earlier in the year, and I suppose the tragic events in Las Vegas reflect an opportunity to reflect on the carnage that firearms cause in our community, sadly many times to innocent victims, sadly all too often to sporting shooters or to their loved ones.

BEN FORDHAM: Okay, there will be plenty of shooters listening saying, 'hang on a moment, what's Las Vegas got to do with us having a shoot back here in Australia for sporting reasons, they're completely different situations and scenarios'.

MICHAEL GANNON: Look, they're partly different Ben. But the reality is - and look, thank God we've got gun laws in this country that probably make it a lot more difficult for someone to assemble that kind of arsenal - the AMA position is not that sporting shooters should not derive enjoyment from their pastime. Some people like getting on boats. Some people like playing cricket. Some people collect whiskey, maybe that's not so healthy. But whatever people want to do, that's their business.

We do not fail to understand the important role of firearms in policing, in the armed forces, and we have no intention of inhibiting the enjoyment of sporting shooters, but if you are using your guns to, from time to time, go and legally shoot feral animals in the country, or if you're going to go to a gun club, that's your business.

But the reality is that if you store your weapons at home, you have a lethal instrument inside your family home that might be used by someone who's not meant to be in your home, or tragically by yourself or another loved one in a way that it's not intended. We just seek to minimise any possible harm that can come from these lethal instruments.

BEN FORDHAM: Yeah. Sure. Yeah, look, I've got a mate who's a sporting shooter. He stores his at home. There's a locker that's in his house somewhere and the key - well, only he knows where the key is, and it only comes out for those reasons when he needs it for sporting purposes. But have we had many cases - I know that your job isn't just always react to

