Contents

1 The Criminal Event Australian system of justice 2 What is crime? 2 Other common crimes 2 How serious are various types of crimes? 4 Main sources of national crime statistics 5 How much crime is there? 6 What are the trends in crime? 6 Where do most crimes occur? 8 What is the involvement of weapons in crime? 9

2 The Victim

Identifying the victims - Crime Victims Survey 12
The relationship between victims and offenders 15
How does crime affect its victims? 16
Non-reporting of crimes to police 18
Compensation available for the victims of crime 19

3 The Offender

Who commits crime and why? 24
Who is the typical offender? 24
What is the role of youth in crime? 25
Career criminals 27
How many offenders are female? 27
Characteristics of proven offenders 28

4 The Response to Crime

An overview 32
Entry into the criminal justice system 34
The relationship between police strength and crime 35
The arrest process 35
The crime clearance rate 36
Prosecution and adjudication 37

5 Sentencing and Punishment

Objectives of sentencing 42
Current sentencing alternatives 43
The main characteristics of people under supervision 46
How is time served in prison determined? 48
Overcrowding in Australian prison systems 49
What are the trends in correctional populations? 50
The assessment of post-correctional performance 51
Juvenile offenders 51

6 The Cost of Justice

How much does government spend on justice? 54
State government responsibility for justice 54
Commonwealth government responsibilities 56
How does the government pay for the cost of the justice system? 56
Personnel costs 56
What do prisons and correctional programs cost? 57
What factors are related to state government per capita spending? 59

References and Sources of Data 61

List of Tables

	Characteristics of common serious crimes 3	Table 5.1	Most commonly selected sentence options for
Table 1.2	A comparison of Selected Crime Statistics and		selected offences - survey of public opinion, 1987
	Crime Victim Survey Statistics 6		42
Table 1.3	Victimisations, 1983 6	Table 5.2	Charges heard during 1984-85: principal outcomes
Table 1.4	Selected crimes reported to the police, 1987 6		of offences proven, by level of court and offence 4
Table 1.5	Crimes and crime rates, 1983 9	Table 5.3	Number of charges proved, by offence type and
Table 1.6	Location and types of crime, 1983 9		type of penalty (in thousands) 45
Table 1.7	Incidents by weapon used and whether or not	Table 5.4	Non-parole periods as percentage of maximum
	incident became known to the police, 1987 9		terms, Victoria 45
Table 1.8	Number and percentage of murders reported to	Table 5.5	Actual time served in prison by sentenced
	the police by weapon used, 1987 10		offenders 46
Table 1.9	Number of robberies reported to the police by	Table 5.6	Numbers of persons under supervision and
	weapons used, 1986-87 10		detention orders, by jurisdiction 47
		Table 5.7	Most serious offences for which serving orders 47
Table 2.1	Victimisation rates for crimes of violence, 1983 12	Table 5.8	Age distributions of persons serving orders 47
Table 2.2	Victimisation rates for crimes of violence by type of	Table 5.9	Characteristics of correctional populations 48
	crime, 1983 13	Table 5.10	Prison accommodation and occupancy in Australia
Table 2.3	Victimisation rates for household crimes, 1983 14		1987 49
Table 2.4	Incidence rates for various life events, 1981-83 14	Table 5.11	The break-up of prisoners by security level, sex an
Table 2.5	Relationship between victims and offenders, 1983		jurisdiction, 1986 49
m 11 00	15	Table 5.12	Children's Courts statistics: dispositions by offence
	Homicide victims, New South Wales 16		type, 1984-85 <i>52</i>
	Income group and victimisation for theft, 1983 17	Table 5.13	Number and rates of detainees aged 10-17 in
Table 2.8	Main reasons for not reporting as a percentage of		juvenile corrective institutions at 30 June 1986 52
T 11 00	all incidents 19		
	Main reasons for reporting thefts, 1983 19	Table 6.1	Commonwealth/state/local government/
Table 2.10	Victim compensation 21		proportion of total expenditure, 1984-85 54
T-11- 9 1	The characteristics of effections 1000, 25	Table 6.2	State government spending per capita in constant
Table 3.1 Table 3.2	The characteristics of offenders, 1986 25 The characteristics of arrestees, 1985-86 25		1984-85 dollars <i>55</i>
Table 3.2		Table 6.3	Average annual cost per prisoner 57
Table 5.5	Percentage of females in arrests, 1986 27	Table 6.4	Average annual cost per capita of persons under
Table 4.1	Powers of law enforcers 33	m	non-custodial supervision orders 58
	Arrests by police 1985-86 36	Table 6.5	Net per capita expenditure 1984-85 - state
	Percentage of reported crimes cleared by arrest,	T 11 00	governments 59
Table 4.5	1985-86 36	Table 6.6	Factors influencing the per capita expenditure on
Table 1.1	Magistrate court appearances: summarily		justice 60
Table 4.4	convicted and committals for sentence or trial,		
	Queensland, 1987-88 38		
Table 4.5	Time taken in processing charges at magistrates'		
Tuble 4.0	courts, New South Wales, 1987 38		
Table 4.6	Higher courts, appearances and convictions,		
1000 7.0	Queensland, 1987-88 38		
Table 4.7	Age of criminal responsibility and upper age limit		
Tubic T.I	of juveniles 39		
Table 18	Children's courts appearances offences proven		

and committals, Queensland, 1987-88 39

List of Figures

Figure 1.1	Seriousness of selected offences as perceived by Australians, by sex of respondent, 1986 4	Figure 3.8	Arrest rate per 100,000 population—males 28
Figure 1.2	Property crime outnumbered violent crimes by 21 to 1 7	Figure 3.9	Arrest rate per 100,000 population—females 28
Figure 1.3	Selected crime statistics show increases in most crimes—1 7	Figure 3.10	Drug offences reported to police and cleared, 1986-87 29
Figure 1.4	Selected crime statistics show increases in most crimes—2 7	Figure 3.11	Drug offences by age of offenders 29
Figure 1.5	Homicide rates per 100,000 population 8	Figure 4.1	Reported rate and arrest rate of property
Figure 1.6	Crime rates for violent offences 1973-74 to		crime 34
	1986-87 8	Figure 4.2	Reported rate and arrest rate of violent
Figure 1.7	Crime rates for property offences 1973-74 to		crime 34
	1986-87 8	Figure 4.3	Number of police officers per 1,000 residents,
Figure 1.8	Homicide rates 1974-86 9		1985-86 35
Figure 1.9	Motor vehicle theft rates 1973-74 to	Figure 4.4	Number of police officers per 1,000 km ² 35
	1986-87 9	Figure 4.5	Proportion of violent and property offences
D' 0.1	77	D: 4.0	cleared, Australia 1973-74 to 1986-87 37
Figure 2.1	Victimisation rates for crimes of violence by age 13	Figure 4.6	Time taken in processing charges, New South Wales, 1987 38
Figure 2.2	Victimisation rates for household crimes by		
	state 14	Figure 5.1	Sentences passed in Australian courts, by
Figure 2.3	Relationship between victims and		offence type 44
	offenders 16	Figure 5.2	Comparative rates of adult detention and
Figure 2.4	Offender victim relationship in homicide by		supervision by jurisdiction 46
	sex of victim, New South Wales, 1968-86 16	Figure 5.3	Over-representation of Aborigines in prison
Figure 2.5	Percentage of crimes reported to police by		populations in all jurisdictions 48
TI 0.0	type of crime 18	Figure 5.4	Average number of prisoners in Australian
Figure 2.6	Whether offender known to victim: main	D: 5.5	prisons, May 1976-April 1989 50
	reason for reporting/not reporting to	Figure 5.5	Prisoner rates per 100,000 population 50
D' 0.7	police 18	Figure 5.6	Rates of imprisonment by age 51
Figure 2.7	Percentage not reported to police, by reason	F: C 1	Dan annita ann an dituma an anniana manananan
Figure 2.8	for not reporting 19 Percentage of crimes most likely to be	Figure 6.1	Per capita expenditure on various governmen functions 54
rigure 2.0	reported to the police 20	Figure 6.2	Percentage growth in spending 1964-65 to
	reported to the police 20	Figure 0.2	1984-85; health at constant 1984-85 dollar 55
Figure 3.1	Mix of offences for which persons are	Figure 6.3	Relative cost of prison and non-custodial
rigure 5.1	arrested, convicted and imprisoned 25	rigure 0.5	supervision 58
Figure 3.2	Rate of arrest by age of offender 26		Super vision of
Figure 3.3	The gradual increase of youth arrest rates 26		
Figure 3.4	Detention status - girls, 1981-86 26		
Figure 3.5	Detention status - boys, 1981-86 26		
Figure 3.6	Percentage of male and female arrestees by type of crime 27		
Figure 3.7	Women as proportion of total prisoners 27	×	
_		1	