

# Criminology AUSTRALIA

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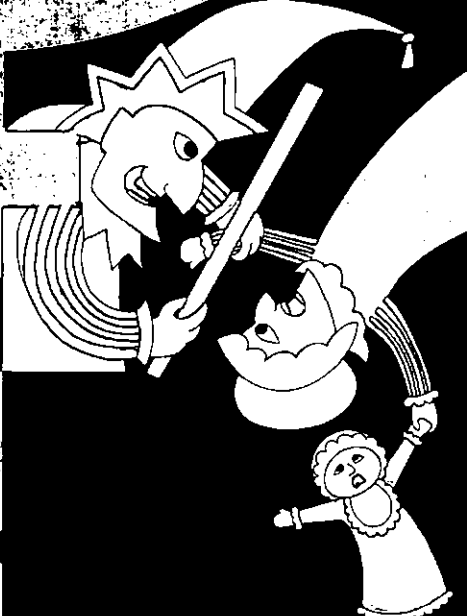
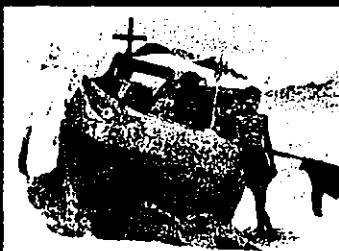
Feminist  
criminology

Low-crime  
landscape

Young Viets

Concerned  
rocker

Home  
detention





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Jocelynn A. Scutt\*

# Feminist criminology: a new direction



Since its inception as a discipline, traditional criminology has been subjected to sharp attacks from feminists. Feminist criticism of the traditionalists reached a crescendo in the 1970s. In the 1980s it appears a new level is being reached, combining not only criticism (this time, of the 'new' criminology), but also movement forward, to formulating a feminist criminology. The difference is that the 1970s was more a time of reaction; the 1980s show feminist theorising in criminology moving to a pro-active stance.

During the seventies feminists waged a vigorous battle against Lombroso, Pollack and the Gluecks amongst others. The absurdity of these criminologists' theories readily lent themselves to criticism. The picture painted by Lombroso of the swaggering 'born criminal' tall, dark-haired, jutting chin, long, rangy limbs, swaggering about the hills of Italy as a brigand; the devious deceiver favoured by Pollack, concealing her crimes of deception by way of upturned eye and damask cheek; and the swarming masses of criminal humanity depicted by the Gluecks in their pejorative descriptions of female thieves, juvenile criminals and prostitutes provided material for numerous books and treatises. However, this constant reiteration and tearing apart of theories was insufficient to sustain a new or revised criminology.

It has taken the eighties, with the

production of books such as *The Lust To Kill* by Deborah Cameron and Elizabeth Frazer (Polity Press (1987) in association with Basil Blackwell Cambridge), and Jane Caputi's *The Age of Sex Crime* (Women's Press (1988) London) to spark a new direction. These works move criminology beyond its masculine identification and imitations, to a more reasoned and sustained development of criminological theorising. (Even in rejecting traditional criminology, feminists were bound by it: the criticism was limited by the dimensions of the theories it analysed.)

Traditional criminologists invariably romanticised crime. But so have the 'new criminologists', with their worship of the anti-hero. Neither old nor 'new' criminologists have generally recognised the run of the mill, every day humanity which forms the great mass of criminals, the world over. In recognising that the major crime existing in western society, at least, is assault and rape, sexual abuse and exploitation carried out within the home, it becomes clear that the mass of offenders are very ordinary men. Where women and children are victims of unlawful killings, the same remains true.

Caputi, Cameron and Frazer point out that treatises on crime, particularly those relating to sexual murder and other forms of woman killing, conventionally have been depicted as extraordinary, 'lustfull', 'exotic'—and heroic. Jack The Ripper is invariably characterised in pictures, film, and television as a hero, even 'romantic' hero. Numerous books have been (and continue to be) published, focusing on him and his 'exploits'. The humanity of his victims is readily ignored. (In the 1960s, that decade of so-called sexual freedom and liberation, a musical on the cowardly

Courtesy John Fairfax and Sons, Sydney. Photographer: Ross Bird

\* Dr Scutt is a barrister and has written books on domestic violence, women and crime, rape law reform and in-vitro fertilisation.

murderer Crippen was staged in the West End of London's theatre world. (From Tom Cullen's *Crippen* 1989 Penguin True Crime Series). A major character and focal point of the script was his wife, Belle, wilfully killed by a man who wanted her money for himself.)

The reality of men such as Jack The Ripper is their ordinariness. The differing reactions of women and men to these cult figures is notable. In *The Age of Sex Crime* Jane Caputi observes that whenever the exploits of a present day 'Jack The Ripper' are emblazoned across television screens, newspaper hoardings and newspapers, and insistently reiterated on radio news programs, hundreds of men rush, like lemmings over the cliff or bees to a honey pot, to the police station to 'give themselves up'. They appear to be overcome by a desire to emulate what they for some reason (unfathomable to women) classify as heroic exploits which they are all too ready to take responsibility for. Equally hundreds of women attend the police station fearing that their boyfriends or husbands are Jack The Ripper'. Ted Bundy's live-in woman friend

feared for the six years of her cohabitation with him that he was, in fact, precisely what he was: the selfish, unfeeling rapist and killer young women across the length and breadth of the United States.

Unfortunately for too many young women, the police ignored Mr Bundy's female friend's intelligence. Bundy recently went to the electric chair in the United States, after years spent resisting through the appeals system his conviction for some of the deaths.

When it swept upon the scene in the late sixties, the 'new' criminology designated all crime as arising out of economic inequality. This is no explanation for the widespread criminal violence carried out against women in western (and eastern) culture. Feminist criminology is now cutting through the glib explanations for crime provided by both the traditional criminology and the new criminology. Both have chosen to

**Women killers are rare enough to become celebrities in a man's world, especially if they fit the sex object stereotype: Leila Khaled, terrorist, and, of course, Bonnie Parker, of Bonnie and Clyde.**

ignore crime committed against women, or have depicted it as aberrational. Feminist criminology is now engaged in the task of naming crime against women for what it is.

However, even this mode of naming is fraught with problems. In light of feminist insistence on acknowledging the truth, namely that rape is a pervasive crime against women, one minority view is that it should therefore be 'decriminalised': if it is endemic, if so many men are engaged in it, then it should be recognised as the 'natural' behaviour it is and not be subject to criminal sanction, runs the theme. The same argument could be made about criminal assault at home: it is so persistent, so many men are engaged in it, that it should simply be acknowledged as 'natural' and the acknowledgement be made not only in interpretation and enforcement of the law (as it currently is), but in the language of the law as 'not criminal'. Andrea Dworkin points out that this very same thesis is currently being projected in relation to pornography. The 'Left' acknowledges the existence of pornography and the huge market



Courtesy Austral-International



Write on

The first issue brought a quick reaction in the form of letters (and subscribers too, but that is another matter). Kate Hannaford, who takes up a Churchill Fellowship in 1990 to study victim support in the UK, follows up the reference to victims in the 'Violence Under Scrutiny' article.

Sir,

I recently returned to work at a medium security prison for the South Australian Department of Correctional Services.

Having spent one year on secondment working with victims of crime, I was particularly interested in the reactions of prisoners to the harm they had inflicted upon their victims. Their lack of concern appalled me.

The first prisoner I interviewed wanted his security rating lowered, adding that he was a first offender and his behavioural reports in prison were excellent. His offence was rape and when questioned about any effects on the victim, he replied: 'Oh, nothing really, I didn't leave a mark!'

The second prisoner was a drug addict who had numerous offences for

armed robbery. He became rather incensed when I commented that having a gun pointed at close range was really quite devastating for the victim. He said indignantly:

'Kate, I'll have you know I'm a vegetarian pacifist who dodged the Vietnam war'.

The third prisoner had rolled a male pedestrian in a deserted street because he needed money for a party. Quite frankly, he admitted, he had not given a thought to the victim. He considered that the matter was finished, adding however that his sentence of imprisonment was most unfair.

I interviewed over thirty prisoners and only one showed any remorse. He had stabbed to death his wife in a fit of jealous rage and felt the guilt enormously.

None of the offenders for break and enter had considered the victim and their families. Instead there was a feeling of injustice that they, the offenders, had been gaoled for such a minor offence.

I consider that prisoners manage conveniently to block the offence from their minds. For effective rehabilitation, inmates need to be confronted with the offence and the effects on the victim made painfully clear. Most do not accept responsibility for their behaviour.

Such confrontative counselling would require that penal institutions are staffed adequately with psychologists and social workers. A background in victimology would be beneficial for these workers.

Kate Hannaford  
Adelaide, South Australia

□ □ □ □ □

David Neal's ' "God, Guns and Guts" ' (all those quotation marks are important) brought an immediate response from Mr John W. Bradbury.

Sir,

The title "God, Guns and Guts" (Criminology Australia Vol. 1, No. 1) brands Dr Neal's gun issue article as being emotionally rather than scientifically based. The feature relies largely on foreign "research" to the exclusion of the most telling Australian Bureau of Statistics figures which conclusively show the reverse of the situation portrayed by Dr Neal, who goes on to claim that an American book "The Citizens Guide to Gun Control" has direct relevance to Australia, without offering the slightest rational substantiation.

"Two questions lie at the heart of the gun debate:

- (i) Is the rate of violent crime linked to the availability of guns? is so,
- (ii) Would gun controls reduce the availability of guns and hence the rate of violent crime?"

asks Dr Neal in his article.

ABS figures deny the popular fallacy posed by the first question. Despite an increase of gun ownership, claimed by Dr Neal to have risen from 1 in 6 of the population in 1979 to 1 in 4 in 1988\* and the Australian population having risen by 13.7 per cent from 14 421 900 to 16 402 000 (ABS 1980-1988), homicides by assault with guns and explosives (ABS item 965) fell from 112 in 1980 to 97 in 1987, a reduction of 15 cases or by 15.46 per cent.

A logical conclusion to be made from the foregoing is that an increase in gun ownership and availability of guns in

## Feminist criminology: a new direction

(apparently) desirous of it. On that basis, the Left justifies pornography's existence and demands it be even more readily available for those wishing to purchase it. This they call 'freedom of speech' and 'civil liberties' (forgetting the freedom of speech and civil liberties of 51 per cent of humanity). The Right, on the other hand, wishes to retain its surface secrecy of pornography. The Right wants it, but (unlike the Left) wants it kept 'under wraps' where the 'select' alone have access. The Right combines an elitism and an hypocrisy, where the Left looks for egalitarianism. Every man (for the Left) has a right to his own pornographic turn on. For the Right, the demand is that only those in the know, with sufficient funds, and sufficient contacts, should be able to gain access to pornography.

Caputi, Cameron and Frazer certainly

touch a nerve. The real breakthrough in criminology will be the broader acknowledgement that there are two basic forms of crime. Economic crime inflicted generally on men (they have more money); and violent crime against the person, generally inflicted upon women (purely because they are women). The pervasiveness of violence at home does not stop at the front door. Rather, violence against women on the streets and in other institutions (against nurses, in hospitals, by patients; against women in the workplace, by employers and co-workers) is directed at women because women are women and are vulnerable as women. The violence takes place either against women in the female role of caring and nurturing (wives, nurses, secretaries); or in the female role as sex object (against wives, nurses, secretaries). Where violence against women is (on the less frequent occasions it is) inflicted by a stranger, the dynamic is identical with that operating where the violence is meted out

Myra Hindley is mentioned as a possible sex murderer.



Courtesy Austral-International

Australia during the most recent decade has not caused an increase in the ABS category 'Homicide: Assault by firearms and explosives'. In fact the reverse actually occurred to negate both questions posed by Dr Neal and the principal thrust of his contribution.

The article's table 'Victoria: Gun homicides 1980-87' contains major variances to ABS figures; for example Neal's table gives 24 gun homicides and 55 total homicides for Victoria in 1980. ABS figures for the same year for Victoria are 41 and 82 respectively. Another example of variance in Neal's table versus ABS† is for the year 1987 where Neal lists 48 gun homicides out of a total homicides 102, while ABS figures are 26 and 72 respectively, being 36 per cent of total Victorian homicides not 47.1 per cent listed in the Neal table. ABS figures include explosives which has the potential to further ameliorate gun homicides ABS vs Neal (1987).

One must conclude that either ABS or Victoria Police quoted figures are incorrect or both are incorrect. In any case the publication of such questionable figures in *Criminology Australia* without any apparent attempt at verification or explanation of the variance from such an authoritative reference as the ABS, is remiss to say the least.

Neal's claim that there is a cost of more than \$1 million attached to each homicide is nonsense including as it does loss of the victim's income and other spurious items. Australia has a vigorous migration program which ensures that deaths from all causes within the community are promptly made good. Neal appears to be aiming to grab headlines; trying to scare the horses with

a plausible absurdity unfit for a PhD thesis; so why inflict it on readers of your publication? One reasonably expects more of the Australian Institute of Criminology.

If one requires evidence of anti-gun bias in the Neal article one has only to look at the ABS figures for Homicide 'assault by cutting and piercing instrument' in 1987 which totals only 9 short of gun and explosive homicides. Neal's article gave no space to an equally costly and almost well patronised method of homicide. Neal's fascination with firearms obviously got in the way of his doctorate training during the formulation of 'God, Guns and Guts'. If Neal fails to perform as a PhD then his fitness to continue to occupy the position of Law Reform Commissioner of Victoria may justifiably be questioned.

Certainly *Criminology Australia* has created a credibility liability for itself by publishing such scientifically flawed material as that contributed in this instance by Dr Neal. Is *Criminology Australia* a political or a scientific publication, that is the question.

\* Subject article, page 19, last para.  
† Intervening years not compared.

John Bradbury  
Urangan, Queensland

□ □ □ □ □

Just before going to press, *Criminology Australia* received a response from Dr Neal.

Sir,

The fact that the title of my article is in quotation marks emphasises the point made strongly in the text that the emotional bumper stickers of the US gun

lobby show how the firearms debate can be clouded by irrational thought. I hoped to keep the discussion above that level and I am sure Mr Bradbury does too.

The article is review of a book on gun research in the United States, where the main work has been done. It would be ridiculous to dismiss this work because it is 'foreign'.

My figures are taken from the primary source for homicide figures in Victoria, the Victoria Police homicide squad. I can supply the names of the victims. As I understand it the Australian Bureau of Statistics also gets its figures from the police. (Editor: this discrepancy has been referred to the Victoria Police and ABS and will be discussed next issue.)

The calculation of the cost of a homicide was done for the Victorian Law Reform Commission by expert economists from the Federal Bureau of Transport and Economics. The basis for their methodology is explained in L.A. Steadman and R. Bryan, *Cost of Road Accidents in Australia*, BTCE Occasional Paper 91, AGPS 1988.

Even if Mr Bradbury does not accept the statistical evidence for the connection between gun availability and gun deaths, surely the case studies presented in the article give him some reason for concern.

Knives are also causing concern and are being restricted by legislation announced in recent weeks. However, in Victoria, guns are used nearly twice as often as knives in homicides. My point about them is a practical one that we should initiate stricter gun control now rather than later when it will be more difficult.

David Neal, Commissioner  
Law Reform Commission of Victoria

against the female family member, girl 'friend' or colleague. Rapists sometimes relate to the woman stranger, actually saying things such as 'Will you marry me; I earn a good wage' and in another case 'Now you'll have to leave this neighbourhood; why don't you come out and live near me in the suburbs?'

Both *The Lust To Kill* and *The Age of Sex Crime* recognise a second reality: that some men are victims of sexual attack and consequent murder by other men; and that some women kill—though rarely is it a 'sex murder'. (Myra Hindley springs to mind. Who else is there?) But as Caputi, Cameron and Frazer equally point out, the male sex murder victim is victimised in a parody of women's victimisation. And where women kill, their crimes are in no way able to be equated with those of men. This is not to excuse, but to explain. Women kill where they have been continuing victims of violence inflicted by the husband or de facto husband whose life they bring to an end

or, more rarely than men, kill children in circumstances where their unequal and inequitable responsibilities have overwhelmed them. (The astonishment is that, in light of the abysmal support given to women in the mothering role, so few fail to endure; so many do the superhuman job allotted to them.)

Conventionally, criminologists have concentrated on men. Similarly, Caputi, Cameron and Frazer look at the crimes of men. However, the message arising out of both books, and this new endeavour to create a feminist criminology, is that women do not act like men; women comparatively rarely offend; when they do, women do not commit the crimes of men. The question incessantly arising is why do women not commit the crimes of men? What goes 'right' in women's socialisation preventing the development in women of a dominant, aggressive, masculine ethos which results in crimes of violence against women (and economic crimes committed against men).

The most difficult step to be taken in the development of any new feminist criminology is that of taking it beyond theorising and giving it a practical application. We may never reach the millennium, where violence against women and economic crimes cease. But in order to reach that goal (and feminists at least strive for it), women must surely be elevated to positions of power, to re-orientate socialisation and eliminate sexism. Yet in the very transition of becoming able, in those positions, to effect these changes, do women run the risk of becoming 'dominant' and thus conveyors of the same pervasive ideological errors as their brothers? *The Lust To Kill* suggests this may prove true. The work of Jane Caputi in *The Age of Sex Crime* is less allied to this approach. Taking up and expanding on the themes in both books will add to this brave new criminological world, and meet the promise which ran a rapid course and died too quickly in the 1970s.

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# Young Vietnamese offenders

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Dr Patricia Weiser Easteal, a Visiting Fellow with the Department of Sociology at the Australian National University, prepared a report earlier this year for the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs called Vietnamese Refugees: Crime rates among Minors and Youths in New South Wales. This article is based on that report.

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The headlines of Sydney newspapers were ablaze throughout the year with reports of youth crime within the Vietnamese community. As with most ethnic groups, the Vietnamese in Australia have a certain number of offenders whose high profile is of concern to the rest of the immigrants.

In consultation with the Bureau of Immigration Research of the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, the Australian Institute of Criminology commissioned Dr Patricia Weiser Easteal, a researcher with a background in ethnic affairs, to study whatever information was available on youth offending of Vietnamese compared with youth offending of non-Vietnamese.

The most accessible statistics that would throw light on the matter were the records of offending minors (10 to 17 years old) held by the New South Wales Department of Family and Community Services and the New South Wales adult lower court records stored at the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. For the years 1985, 1986 and 1987, information on age, gender, case disposition, occupation and area of residence were obtained for all offenders with Vietnamese names.

The research was not meant to, nor could it, provide hard information on crime within the community that had not come before the courts or the Department of Family and Community Services.

Comparisons were made between Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese minors (under 17) and youths (18 to 24 years) and between the Vietnamese aged 18 to 24 and those over 24 years of age.

The study was extended to see if the stresses of arriving in Australia unaccompanied meant an increase in offending.

*Leaving Vietnam, often without the family intact, was traumatic enough but the trip to refugee camps by boat or land often ended tragically or, at the least, involved severe deprivation.*

## Findings

The findings clearly indicate that Vietnamese young people living in New South Wales have a significantly lower crime rate than their non-Vietnamese counterparts:

- ☐ Vietnamese minors have about one half the rate of proven offences of the non-Vietnamese minors;
- ☐ Vietnamese youths have about one half the general offence rate of 18 to 24 year old non-Vietnamese;



Courtesy Austral-International



- ☐ the drink-driving conviction rate is one fourth that of the non-Vietnamese; and
- ☐ the level of drug offences is about one tenth.

In young males, who are responsible for most illegal activity in any community, the non-Vietnamese rate for general offences was more than double that of the Vietnamese.

The unaccompanied Vietnamese minors, who could be expected to be more at risk than others, were found in fact to have a significantly lower rate of offending. Although making up 12 per cent of the 10 to 17 year old population, they made up only 4.1 per cent of offending minors.

The mean offence rate for the unaccompanied Vietnamese minors was 257.7 per 100 000, significantly below the accompanied offenders' rate of 823.4.

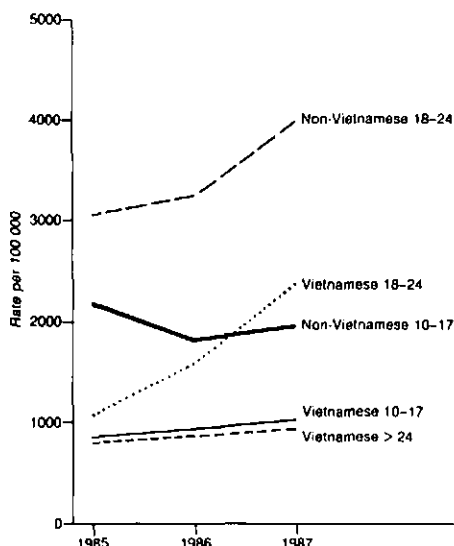
Female rates varied both by age within the Vietnamese community and between the Vietnamese youths and the non-Vietnamese. The latter's 10 to 17 year old girls' court appearances occurred at five to eight times the rate of the Vietnamese girls over the three year period. However, the youth aged Vietnamese females evidenced very similar crime involvement to the non-Vietnamese.

Figure 1 shows the trends for both Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese offenders over the three years. Similar increases for the two populations at both age levels can be observed with a moderate rise for minors and a dramatic upsurge for Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese youths. The types of offences committed with higher frequency in 1987 did not vary by population. Both the Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese minors showed a significant increase in violent crime.

The youth-aged offenders did not experience a significant increase in assault and sexual offences. Larceny and driving offences account for the greatest upsurge in rates over the three years, both Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese.

Figure 1 also shows the consistently lower rates for Vietnamese minors and youth discussed above. The magnitude of difference should argue against explaining a lower Vietnamese rate simply as the result of data acquisition problems or under-reporting by the community. Neither of these explanations can satisfy either the extent of the lower crime rates or the relatively smaller proportion of youth offenders who contributed to the total Vietnamese community offence numbers as compared to the non-Vietnamese youth percentage of crime. This finding is particularly significant within the context of the relative age class distributions of the two populations. Since Vietnamese 18-24 year olds are a larger percentage of the population than non-Vietnamese youth, one would have predicted the reverse

**Figure 1**  
Offending rates per 100 000 population



ratio for youth's share of criminal activity.

The relatively low Vietnamese youth and minors crime rates are somewhat surprising given the psycho-sociological factors operating. The individuals in these groups not only experience the stresses and traumas associated with refugee status but also have one of the highest unemployment rates in Australia.

There would appear to be few differences between the Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese offenders' backgrounds. A slightly higher percentage of Vietnamese offenders were unemployed with the reverse true for unskilled occupations. Student status was higher among the Vietnamese but unfortunately the youth age classes could not be

**A large proportion of the refugees consisted of single males, many unaccompanied minors. A recent report based on court records reveals a lower offending rate among young Vietnamese than among young non-Vietnamese.**

compared (non-Vietnamese occupational data are not available by age). Skilled occupations were roughly equivalent while a marginally higher percentage of non-Vietnamese were semi-professionals or professionals. The primary finding from the data is the similarity in proportion of unemployed. For both Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese almost one half of the offenders each year were unemployed.

The Vietnamese have settled in neighbourhoods which exhibited higher crime rates than the average for the rest of New South Wales prior to the Vietnamese influx. The crime rates in these areas also continue to rise at a faster pace than the average of the rest of the state which certainly cannot be attributed solely to Vietnamese offences since comparable increases have occurred for the non-Vietnamese.

Furthermore, some 12 per cent of the 17 year olds have the added stresses of arriving without their parents and have been depicted in the press as fodder for organised crime and/or youth gangs. The data entirely refute such portrayals and leave one to speculate on how or why unaccompanied minors and other refugee youth have apparently managed to avoid surpassing or even near equalling non-Vietnamese offence rates.

The process of acculturation is neither quick nor complete, particularly for refugees who continue to have strong ties to kin back in Vietnam. One's movements in a small ethnic community are not anonymous and are well-known both within the community and to family elsewhere. Thus the cultural values brought to Australia may well be keeping criminal activity down. The loss of 'face', the identity and loyalty of the individual to the family might promote conformity and/or act as a strong deterrent to those who have been arrested once.



Courtesy Austral-International.

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# UN environmental crimes proposal

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Australia's involvement has been sought in a new United Nations proposal to study environmental crimes. The proposed three-year project would involve the gathering, analysis and presentation of data from about ten nations, focussing in particular on the need to develop strategies to reduce pollution crimes in developing countries.

The project *Environmental Crimes, Sanctioning Strategies and Sustainable Development* has been submitted by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in Rome to the Italian Government in the first instance for financial support.

The Australian Institute of Criminology is developing greater co-operation with UNICRI. A considerable connection already exists; Dr Satyanshu K. Mukherjee, Principal Criminologist, was

associated with UNICRI (formerly UNSDRI) before joining the Institute and a number of other Institute criminologists

From left, Professor Duncan Chappell, Director, Australian Institute of Criminology, Margaret J. Anstee, Director-General of the United Nations Office of Vienna and Head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, and Peter Loof, Chairman of the Board of Management of the Institute, sign the Memorandum of Understanding.



have visited its Rome headquarters. Other Australian criminologists to have worked with UNICRI include Graeme Newman now with State University of New York at Albany, and Mark Findlay soon to join the Sydney University Law School.

Last year, the Institute was recognised by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations, as one of the institutions co-operating in the implementation of the United Nations program in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

The involvement of the Institute in UN activities places a particular responsibility on it with regard to the region. With the United Nations Asian and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), the Institute will play a large role in collecting data and statistics in Asia and the Pacific. It will also provide advice on implementing UN crime prevention and criminal justice programs in this part of the world.

UNICRI was transformed from an earlier UN body in May 1989 with the objective to 'contribute, through research, training field activities and the collection, exchange and dissemination of information, to the formulation and implementation of improved policies in the field of crime prevention and control, due regard being paid to the integration of such policies within broader policies for socio-economic change and development and to the protection of human rights'.

The activities of UNICRI can be divided into five categories: research activities, technical co-operation, training, library services, and publications.

## Research

In addition to research involving the environment, UNICRI is involved in research into alternatives to imprisonment and alternative policing and crime control.

### Alternatives to imprisonment

Organised within the framework of the Eighth United Nations Congress for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (1990), this project involves the co-operation of the regional UN institutes, the Australian Institute of Criminology, the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre and the United States National Institute of Justice.

The workshop will focus on an overview of the existing situation in the application of alternatives to imprisonment at regional and interregional levels, and on cross-cultural case studies of specific alternative measures. UNICRI is in the process of finalising a bibliographical review as well as a report on the available literature on alternatives to imprisonment from 1980 on.

### Alternative policing and crime control

A recent revival of interest in private policing has taken place in the wake of a number of different concerns related to the crime management process. However, the debate has until now concentrated on the modes, structures and forms of private policing that are found in industrialised countries, with the result that there is almost no information available on alternative policing in the developing regions of the world. Still at the preparatory stage, this project is expected to centre on three main issues:

- (a) the community imperatives which give rise to and determine the structure of policing modes;
- (b) the features which identify these modes of policing as mechanisms of crime control; and
- (c) the connection between these imperatives, their structural features and the crime control potential of these mechanisms.

## Technical co-operation

UNICRI is also undertaking specific technical co-operation projects with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### El-Katta Prison Farm, Egypt

The main objective of this project is the development of a model social rehabilitation system for young adult offenders at the El-Katta Prison expanded prison farm. The system will be developed in the light of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Inmates will be provided with agricultural training corresponding to the farming situations in which they would function subsequent to their departure from prison. Emphasis will also be given to the proper development of the prison's social program, especially through the enlargement of the role of the social counsellors.

Three UNICRI consultants will undertake a mission in the second half of 1989 to prepare the ground in detail for the implementation of the project.

### Street Children in Buenos Aires and Montevideo

This pilot project will prepare a model of intervention to cope with the growing problem of children in different situations of semi-abandonment and abandonment, hopefully capable of being reproduced at a national level.

In Buenos Aires, a polifunctional centre is dealing with the problem of children in the street. Preventive measures aimed at improving daily living conditions are based on close co-operation with educational, health and judicial authorities. This would appear to be the only strategy capable of solving the social problems that lie at the heart of deviant

behaviour. In Montevideo, a polifunctional centre is working in a similar way. Additionally, a metropolitan centre has been set up to deal with social emergencies arising out of the street children problem.

The final report will be published in early 1991.

### Criminality in Tunisia

The first objective of this research is to reach an in-depth understanding of the evolution of social change and the phenomenon of criminality in Tunisia during the period 1956-86. Following this, there will be a six-week training course for about twenty operators in the juvenile justice field.

## Training

A seminar on 'Training and Information on the Administration of Justice and Democratic Development in Italy and Latin America' (24 November to 8 December 1989) will further establish concrete and permanent forms of collaboration between the Italian (and European) systems of administration of justice and those of Latin America (mainly Argentina, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Uruguay, and the Dominican Republic). This will be a joint project of UNICRI, the United Nations Regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) and the International Association of Judges (IAJ).

Following a request from the Cuban Government, UNICRI held a seminar in Havana in February and March of this year on the subject of criminological research methodology, disseminating information on new developments and enhancing the skills of Cuban researchers and policy analysts.

The seminar served as a base for the design of future activities for training criminologists from developing countries.

A training course for Colombian judges is being organised in Rome in September by UNICRI in co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights. The aim is to assist the Colombian authorities in creating a core of expertise in the field of human rights and penal procedures through in-depth training of selected judges.

## Library and publication activities

UNICRI maintains a notable documentation centre in the field of criminology and criminal law. Its publications include a series of volumes called 'Criminology in the Developing World' and a world directory of criminological institutes. Details may be obtained from Sales Section, United Nations, New York 10017.

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# Concerned rocker, or, Oil on troubled waters

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One of the first people to make a submission to the National Committee on Violence after its formation was Peter Garrett, lead singer with the rock group Midnight Oil. He later spoke to the Committee at its Sydney public forum. His written submission follows, with some quotes from his forum remarks.

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This is not intended to be a definitive submission on the issues facing the Committee. I am not defining violence although I understand what it is. I am writing as someone who has seen incidences of violence increase markedly in the area in which I am involved: the entertainment industry.

Much of the violence is mindless, committed by young people, usually under the influence of alcohol. And it shows no signs of abating. It is reasonable to assume that levels of violence do vary in different societies and that this trend, in part at least, is a reflection of the values of our own society. Several issues are thus raised.

Does the failure of science to show conclusively at this time, a direct causal relationship between images of violence and acts of violence which occur, mean that the community must simply accept the rising tide of violence both experiential; and as reportage and 'information' through the media? I hope not.

And does the absence of a countervailing view, which actively promotes non violence as a prescriptive norm and which seeks to mitigate in every possible way, both creative and factual expressions of non contextual violence of identifiable and social conditions, engender a situation where the society faced is becoming more violent? I believe it does.

Peter Garrett



Photographer Kim Raffaele

**'The Oils have just travelled through Tunisia, Europe, up to Scandinavia and across into North America where concerts didn't allow alcohol . . . American society which we know is frighteningly violent as a general rule . . . are alcohol free and violence free.'**

So, the only way in which the Committee's work will do more than simply confirm what most people know or suspect, and as well, provide more employment for academics and bureaucrats, is if you go to the heart of the matter and call for a transforming program in all spheres of Australian society which has as its goal, the reduction in levels of violence and the building of a peaceful non-violent, more tolerant community.

This transforming role would be spearheaded by a change in the way in which the nation, Australia, participated in the international community and in which the nation conducted the business of government and politics.

The topic is vast and complex but the principle is simple. Life is sacred and the right of all to live life without forceful interference is fundamental. Accordingly, the mechanics available to the state to provide proactive and reactive strategies to counter increasing levels of violence through law making and government policy must be activated in order to respond.

The proactive measures would range from education to urban planning. Education, always the beginning point, should at the very least, include a component which reinforces the basic moral ethic of not doing harm to one's neighbour and extend, where possible, to conflict resolution techniques which equip young people with the basic skills necessary to deal with situations which might lead to violence. The community, in particular those groupings within the community which have concern about the problem, need to be directly involved.

Of course, such education programs are worthless if these values are championed in the schools and then diminished by the media and through the political process. Where the availability of alcohol and weapons is made easy, it is not surprising that there is a corresponding increase in the level of violence.

**'We are seeing increases in violence amongst young people, definitely alcohol related and it's something which has increased in the last decade and it shows no signs of abating.'**

There may be continued debate about the direct relationship between television violence and real violence but it is hard to believe that the constant vicarious, relentless portrayal of violence of all levels at all times of the day on the most popular medium for young people does not in some way shape perception and reflect social and cultural values. This is particularly so in the absence of any countervailing view which stresses the integrity and sanctity of life.

What is any young person to make of an advertisement for a daytime television series which has as its constant message

'Here's a character you will

love to hate (sic)'

'She's a bitch . . . a slut . . .'

(The Power the Passion)

or of a continual repetition of a fight at a sporting event or of a particularly brutal murder where the victim is clearly identifiable?

There is no context, no justification, no framework under which these aberrations are displayed.

**'It's commonplace in this country for promoters to force as many people as they can into a club or a pub and let them stagger out four or five hours later blind drunk.'**

## Alcohol

Free availability of alcohol and community toleration of this drug provide the accelerator pedal for an already teetering population, who in the end are faced with the prospect of arming themselves and living in fear in the 'lucky country'.

At the same time, young people clearly see a world where greed, venality and immorality are commonplace, from environmental issues to children's homelessness and where the conduct of the powerful with its explicit values of violence is the norm.

Look at America, at its homicide rates, its cultural outpourings, its drug culture, its glorification of the gun, the rich and the strong and above all its love affair with the television and the motor car and then try and escape the feeling that in some way these things manifest violence. Ask yourself, is this what you wish to see happen in Australia? Because it will happen if you do not give serious consideration to real measures.

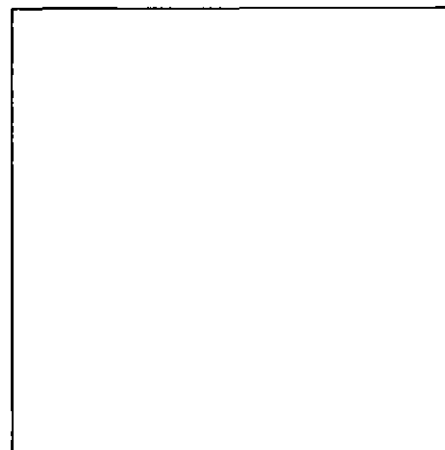
My 'band aid' proposals are as follows:

1. Joint Federal and State commitment to public education which reinforces the ethic of non violence.
2. Joint Federal, State and local commitment to the provision of properly serviced communities, where public transport, public housing and community infrastructures enhance social cohesion.

**' . . . violent behaviour falling into two types. One is the type which is most often portrayed in the media. It may have a clear cause in terms of people's background, of deprivation, or perhaps they've been abused at home, maybe they've spent a lot of time in institutions, but there's another kind which, in my view, this Committee needs to consider. And I would describe it as the beginnings of a nascent mob violence.'**

3. Far more stringent controls on the portrayal of violence in the media, particularly television and particularly as it effects the young who stay up later and watch far more television than previously believed.
  4. Far more stringent controls on the availability and the advertising of alcohol. The relationship between violence and alcohol is proven. More people are drinking more, this is the drug which most people use. Therefore, community support and establishment of recreational venues for young people where alcohol is not consumed is essential.
  5. Far more stringent controls on firearms. The American experience speaks for itself.
  6. Challenge the politicians to remove the violent language from their vocabulary and prosecute those major drug figures who are controlling the supply of heroin into Australia.
- and finally
7. Adopt a national policy posture which stresses a non-belligerent, positive role in international relations and seeks to heal planet and persons through its endeavours. How can anyone in the country talk about reducing levels of violence when we are complicitly assisting in the preparation to blow up half the world?

Good Luck



# Low-crime landscape

## Designing out crime: the concept

Fortress-style developments such as the Gold Coast's Sanctuary Cove and Sydney's Billyard Grove at Turrumurra are emerging in response to escalating public fear about crime, but many people cannot afford to move into housing estates with expensive electronic security and armed guards. Ordinary house or unit owners and tenants can protect themselves by using many simple and inexpensive crime prevention techniques, however.

In a new book, *Designing Out Crime*, the Australian Institute of Criminology evaluates a variety of crime-prevention

through environmental design (CPTED) strategies and describes the most successful of them. Authors Dr Paul Wilson and Susan Geason also advise planners, developers, architects, builders and householders how to design safety features into new homes at the planning and building stages, as well as showing how to burglar-proof existing homes.

### Burglary: Who pays?

The book points out that home-owners are bearing the costs of property crime such as burglary and vandalism, not only by paying for deadlocks, window bars, electronic alarms and in some cases private security patrols, but also through

escalating insurance premiums and the cost of more police and bigger gaols.

The authors maintain that the responsibility for protecting home owners from violent crime, burglary and car theft needs to be shared by those who plan, design and construct housing.

The problem is vast and growing. Assistant Director (Research and Statistics) of the Institute, Dr Paul Wilson, said: '85 per cent of all crime reported in New South Wales is property related, with residential burglary constituting 17 per

**This women's toilet block is not only hidden from view from the surrounding busy city area by a large brick wall and hedge but is signposted clearly, as if to advertise it for the purpose of sexual assault.**



Photographer Marie Covill

cent of that total, but the police clear-up rate for burglary is only about 6 per cent. The obvious conclusion is that people are going to have to learn how to make their homes and neighbourhoods safer.

'The other side of the equation is that those who build and market public and private dwellings have to take much more seriously the safety and security needs of the people who will be living in them.

'We are not expecting the housing industry to be completely altruistic; we think consumers are concerned enough about home security to demand safety features as an integral part of housing design and to pay extra for them if need be.'

## CPTED strategies

According to the authors, security should be one of the criteria for choosing a block of land, a housing design or an existing home. For example, a house in a cul-de-sac is safer than one on a long, straight road, and a house built below street level is vulnerable because anyone trying to force doors or windows is not visible to passers-by.

Other strategies include:

- ☐ **Commonsense.** Insurance companies say about a third of burglaries are carried out without the need to break in; doors and windows have been left open. Tools and ladders should be stowed in garages, which should be locked.
- ☐ **Target hardening.** This means making sure all doors and windows have efficient locks, preferably deadlocks, and that door and window frames are strong. Sometimes bars will be necessary.
- ☐ **Surveillability.** If the householder, neighbours or passers-by can see the vulnerable parts of the property, the opportunities for burglary are minimised. Shrubbery around windows, dark corners, and high walls and fences can prove dangerous.
- ☐ **Territoriality.** Sometimes simply making it clear what is public and what is private property can deter intruders. This might mean a fence, shrubbery or a wall—as long as they do not shield trespassers from view—but sometimes a change in ground level or a flower garden acts as a deterrent.
- ☐ **Architectural detailing.** Those who live in high-crime areas might have to forgo attractive architectural detailing like sliding patio or balcony doors and install swinging doors with a keyhole on the inside, for example. Other problems are pipes or brickwork which creates a ladder effect, easily-removed louvre windows, low-level balconies, skylights, carports leading up to windows or roofs and fences too close to the house.

Dr Wilson summed up the message of *Designing Out Crime*: 'People don't have to turn houses into fortresses with high fences, security patrols and expensive alarms or move into an expensive

"security" housing development if they factor security into location, the design of the house, building materials and landscaping'.

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## Designing out crime: the conference

To coincide with the launch of *Designing Out Crime: Crime prevention through environmental design* on 16 June this year, the Australian Institute of Criminology ran a conference on the subject at the Hilton Hotel in Sydney.

With expert speakers from Australia and North America, the conference attracted delegates from the ACT, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales, from both private enterprise and government agencies. The security industry, transport authorities, private developers, police and public housing authorities were represented.

Topics ranged from the theoretical aspects of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), through the role of police and architects, preventing vandalism and graffiti, and strategies for community involvement, to successful Canadian CPTED projects.

## Overseas and local experts

Overseas speakers were Dr Ron Clarke, Dean of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University in New Jersey, US and formerly head of the UK Home Office's Crime Prevention Unit, and Dr Patricia Brantingham, Professor of Criminology at Canada's Simon Fraser University, author of books on crime prevention and consultant to the British Columbia Government.

Local experts included Mr Christopher R. Banks, Chairman of the Joint Venture for More Affordable Housing—the Greenstreet Joint Venture—a cooperative Commonwealth/State/private enterprise advisory body and Executive Director of Jennings Housing and Ms Wendy Sarkissian, urban designer and town planner, who has been consulted by Australian governments on social planning and housing matters.

Sydney architect and town planner Mr Douglas Sanger gave the architect's viewpoint, while the police role was discussed by Chief Superintendent Bob Potts, Chief of Staff for Research and Development for the South Australian Police Department. The consumers' position was put by Ms Helen Wellings, presenter of the popular ABC TV consumer program, *The Investigators*.

The conference attracted wide attention, with speakers interviewed by radio stations around Australia and a number of newspapers carrying news items. Dr Wilson and Ms Geason also appeared on television discussing CPTED.

## Case studies demonstrate success

Case studies where CPTED methods were used successfully included the Hartford Neighbourhood Crime Prevention Program, where changes to the built environment in a deteriorating neighbourhood, along with increased police support, reduced burglaries and fear of burglary and nipped a growing purse-snatching industry in the bud; the introduction of closed circuit television in Surrey University carpark in the UK, which reduced theft from cars, and a highly effective program of strengthening windows and doors in a housing estate in Bristol in the UK.

Those police departments, local councils or community groups interested in initiating a crime prevention program in their neighbourhood, street or estate, can start with the checklist for a successful CPTED program provided in the book. Effective locks, door chains and bolts are illustrated, and diagrams and photographs show dos and don'ts for home security.

For the individual householder, there are twelve tips for beating the burglar and safety tips for apartment dwellers.

A comprehensive bibliography is appended for those who wish to pursue the subject further.

## References

- Geason, Susan & Wilson, Paul R. 1989, *Designing Out Crime: Crime prevention through environmental design*, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra.
- Geason, Susan & Wilson, Paul R. 1988, *Crime Prevention: theory and practice*, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra.
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## Quotes from the CPTED conference

'CPTED can be an effective technique involving police and many sectors of the community in a co-operative approach to reducing the problem of crime in our communities. It is not the only way to go. It is, however, one valid multi-disciplinary approach to the problem of crime in a free society. It is a method of reducing urban insecurity and one which lends itself to the extension of the programs of community-based policing being introduced in Australia.'

'Police in Australia I suggest, have not strongly embraced the concept of crime prevention through environmental design, and the value which it can provide. Where it has been used, it has been somewhat experimental, local, and not introduced as a total policy initiative of departments. Consideration is, however, being given to its introduction in several of the larger States.'

Chief Superintendent Bob Potts  
South Australian Police

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'I firmly believe that for environmental crime prevention to be truly effective—regardless of the context—we must pay much greater attention to the processes we use. We must find more effective ways to empower users in the design, financial and administrative decisions which affect the safety and security of their environment.'

'... young architects and planners entering the professions in Australia do not appear to be any more knowledgeable than my middle-aged colleagues about environmental crime prevention. On the contrary, although they may have a greater facility with sociological jargon and "buzz words", they really know very little about the relationship between environment and behaviour.'

Ms Wendy Sarkissian  
town planner and urban designer

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'... not all vandalism is anti-social. A great deal—estimates run as high as three-quarters—is unintentional. That is, it results from poor design which can't stand up to wear and tear; or it is caused by people adapting their environment to make it work better; or it results from kids being kids. In these cases there is no intention to cause damage, but the result is viewed by others as vandalism.'

'Experience in other countries shows that preventing or minimising graffiti and vandalism seem to depend on the right formula, or package, of measures. These include the presence of police or railway police, electronic surveillance, quick and effective clean-ups, education campaigns, restrictions on the weapons



Photographer Marie Cotvill

In Canberra, this sheltered unlit pathway between a car park and a theatre entrance creates an ideal location for crime at night.

or tools used, and programs and activities which are more interesting for young people than bombing trains or hanging around railway stations making trouble.'

Susan Geason, co-author,  
*Designing Out Crime*, and the upcoming  
*Preventing Graffiti and Vandalism*

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'In the past designers, developers and house builders did not have to take crime into account. Crime is now a primary element of a design brief, or it should be. Security is already a marketed feature in some projects.'

'Whatever route our community selects, we must educate ourselves, as designers, builders and developers, to ensure that we are aware of all the faces

of crime and act positively to produce housing which is safer and more responsible—whilst still applying the "aesthetic" skills we are trained to give to any design task. Maybe crime is the most important design task we have faced.'

Mr Douglas Sanger  
Architect and urban designer

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'I am acutely aware of the urgent need for all of us involved in the housing process to ensure that the housing produced in the nineties and beyond reflects the real aspirations, attitudes and lifestyles of contemporary Australians and takes into account the changing nature of the society we live in.'

Mr Christopher R. Banks  
Chairman of Joint Venture for More  
Affordable Housing and Executive Director  
Jennings Housing

## Designing out crime: the book

The latest volume in the Institute's highly successful series on crime prevention was launched at a conference in Sydney on 16 June. *Designing Out Crime: Crime prevention through environmental design* (1), was co-authored by Dr Paul Wilson and Susan Geason.

The series began with *Crime Prevention: theory and practice* (2) and *Missing Children* (3), both published in 1988. They are available from the Institute or from Australian Government bookshops for \$10 each.

*Preventing Graffiti and Vandalism* and *Preventing Car Theft and Crime in Carparks* are in production.

*Designing Out Crime* arose from Dr Paul Wilson's long interest in crime and public housing, and his 1976 book, *Public Housing for Australia* (4), was its starting point. *Designing Out Crime* is not restricted to public housing, however, as property crime victimises owner-occupiers and tenants alike.

As the intention was to reach as many different groups interested in or affected by housebreaking, burglary and violent crime, the book starts with theory, progresses through case studies and finally offers concrete crime prevention strategies and techniques for town planners, architects, builders and householders.



John Walker\*

# Trends in imprisonment in Australia in the 1980s

Of all the various aspects of the criminal justice system, the one which is best documented by statistics is imprisonment. One of the things the Australian Institute of Criminology can be particularly proud of is its role in the development of prison statistics. Credit is due also to the various state and territory Ministers and administrators who, over the last decade or more, have fostered the development of relatively timely and meaningful information, comparable across jurisdictions.

It is thirteen years since the Institute started compiling monthly data on numbers of prisoners on hand, by sex and jurisdiction, from information sent to us by the state and territory departments of corrections. In 1981, a monthly count of total persons received under sentence was added to the data collection, and the following year saw the commencement of the annual National Prison Censuses. These data are now beginning to represent a real research resource; not just for the purposes of prison management, but also for such other important areas as the analysis of trends in sentencing.

Prison administrators cannot choose who to admit and who to turn away; they cannot put up 'No Vacancy' signs when cells are full. They must therefore try to anticipate trends in both the numbers sentenced to terms of imprisonment and the time they will actually occupy a cell. Prison administrators therefore have to try to anticipate changes in such areas as demography, rates of offending, sentencing severity, and sentencing options, if they are to successfully plan ahead for their future accommodation

requirements and avoid problems such as overcrowding. When state and territory budgets are being squeezed, as they are at the end of the 1980s, it is even more important to read the signals correctly. The traditional remedy, an expensive program of prison construction or extensions, is unlikely to be available even in a crisis, and the alternative, overcrowded prisons, often leads to trouble amongst both inmates and staff.

It is of interest then to see what has happened to the sentenced prisoner populations in the various Australian

jurisdictions over the last eight years. Of course, this ignores a large component of the prison population—remandees—but we may return to them in another article. Let us look first at the three key indicators of imprisonment rates: numbers received into prison each month under sentence, the average times they will serve in prison, and the daily average prison population of sentenced prisoners.

The times actually served by sentenced prisoners are not generally available in published statistics, but averages can be deduced by comparing

Table 1  
Basic indicators of imprisonment usage, by jurisdiction, 1981-82 to 1988-89

| Year   | NSW  | VIC  | QLD  | WA   | SA   | TAS  | NT   | AUST |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Annual average monthly receptions of sentenced prisoners |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 81-82  | 508  | 320  | 279  | 285  | 246  | 43   | 108  | 1793 |
| 82-83  | 738  | 325  | 308  | 355  | 341  | 47   | 75   | 2167 |
| 83-84  | 744  | 370  | 357  | 328  | 311  | 58   | 106  | 2272 |
| 84-85  | 793  | 414  | 351  | 352  | 256  | 58   | 117  | 2340 |
| 85-86  | 671  | 307  | 401  | 325  | 240  | 59   | 131  | 2134 |
| 86-87  | 689  | 253  | 438  | 350  | 277  | 67   | 132  | 2206 |
| 87-88  | 465  | 208  | 406  | 372  | 301  | 69   | 102  | 1833 |
| 88-89  | 389  | 178  | 387  | 367  | 234  | 60   | 95   | 1591 |
| Annual daily average sentenced prisoners                 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 81-82  | 2948 | 1624 | 1555 | 1274 | 673  | 229  | 255  | 8596 |
| 82-83  | 2819 | 1692 | 1524 | 1374 | 679  | 215  | 215  | 8556 |
| 83-84  | 2880 | 1775 | 1633 | 1326 | 565  | 221  | 219  | 8664 |
| 84-85  | 2760 | 1733 | 1756 | 1342 | 538  | 221  | 249  | 8648 |
| 85-86  | 3010 | 1691 | 1908 | 1413 | 611  | 225  | 306  | 9231 |
| 86-87  | 3032 | 1690 | 2099 | 1446 | 652  | 233  | 371  | 9591 |
| 87-88  | 3134 | 1751 | 2159 | 1474 | 643  | 261  | 354  | 9842 |
| 88-89  | 2711 | 1601 | 1819 | 1167 | 546  | 191  | 282  | 8287 |
| Estimated average time served (months)                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 81-82  | 5.80 | 5.08 | 5.58 | 4.47 | 2.74 | 5.34 | 2.36 | 4.80 |
| 82-83  | 3.82 | 5.21 | 4.94 | 3.87 | 1.99 | 4.58 | 2.87 | 3.95 |
| 83-84  | 3.87 | 4.80 | 4.58 | 4.04 | 1.82 | 3.82 | 2.07 | 3.81 |
| 84-85  | 3.48 | 4.19 | 5.00 | 3.82 | 2.10 | 3.81 | 2.13 | 3.70 |
| 85-86  | 4.49 | 5.51 | 4.76 | 4.34 | 2.54 | 3.81 | 2.33 | 4.33 |
| 86-87  | 4.40 | 6.68 | 4.80 | 4.13 | 2.35 | 3.49 | 2.81 | 4.35 |
| 87-88  | 6.74 | 8.43 | 5.32 | 3.96 | 2.14 | 3.78 | 3.46 | 5.37 |
| 88-89  | 6.97 | 9.01 | 4.70 | 3.18 | 2.33 | 3.18 | 2.99 | 5.21 |

\* John Walker is a Criminologist with the Australian Institute of Criminology.

the receptions and the on-hand figures. When the prison population is stable the three indicators are linked mathematically by the expression:

$$\text{Sentenced prisoners on-hand} = \text{Sentenced receptions per month} \times \text{Average time to serve (in months)}$$

The information revealed by the statistics and by the use of this mathematical relationship is summarised by jurisdiction in Table 1, and the trends are presented graphically for Australia in Figure 1.

The story told by the data is quite interesting. Vertical movements on the graph show changes up or down in average times served by sentenced prisoners. Horizontal movements show changes in monthly receptions figures. Clearly, reductions in average times served, or in monthly receptions, will *ceteris paribus* reduce the daily average prison muster, and in graphical terms the curve will turn towards the lower daily average contours. Such changes in one variate without any concurrent change in the other have been rare in the 1980s, however. Movements along the contours have predominated; these show where simultaneous changes in both of these variables, in opposite directions, have more or less cancelled each other out in terms of daily averages.

The graph shows that between 1981-82 and 1984-85, there were quite large reductions in average times served associated with equally large increases in monthly receptions. (The table shows that this occurred particularly in New South Wales and Victoria.) There was little real change in daily averages as a result. There is no doubt that the rise in receptions for fine default largely explains these changes. Increases in daily averages then occurred in the years up to 1987-88, in spite of very significant reductions in receptions. It appears that some of the efforts being made to reduce the level of imprisonment for fine default were being countered by increased receptions of longer term prisoners. This, however, appears to have come to an end in 1988-89 when further reductions in monthly receptions have not been accompanied by longer average times served. While this is perhaps powerful evidence of the operation of a 'capacity restraint' in imprisonment rates, it will be interesting to continue to monitor changes on the graph during the implementation of the 'truth in sentencing' legislation.

## Changes in the characteristics of prison populations 1982-88

Along with changes in these crude indicators of total prison populations, one can observe, in the tabulations of the National Prison Census reports, changes

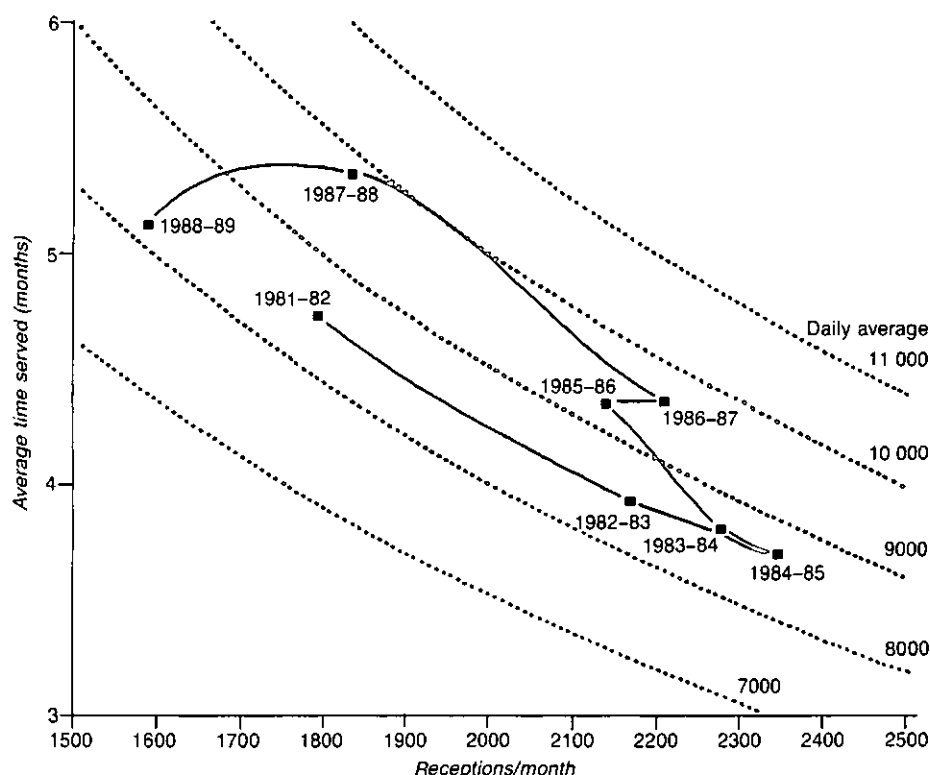


Figure 1  
Trends in receptions, daily averages and time served: sentenced prisoners, Australia, 1981-82 to 1988-89

in key indicators of the characteristics of the prison populations. (See Table 2 and Figure 2)

For this brief article, I have selected seventeen such indicators, divided into three groups: 'Demographic' indicators which tell us something about the prisoners themselves; 'Offence type' indicators which show changes in the

types of offences for which they were sentenced to prison; and 'Aggregate Sentence' indicators which tell us about the sentence lengths being served.

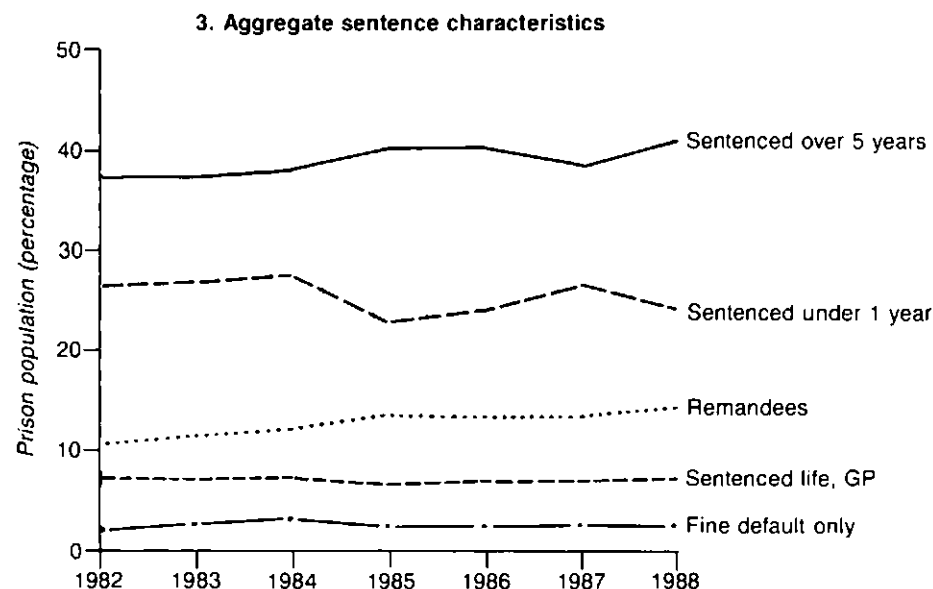
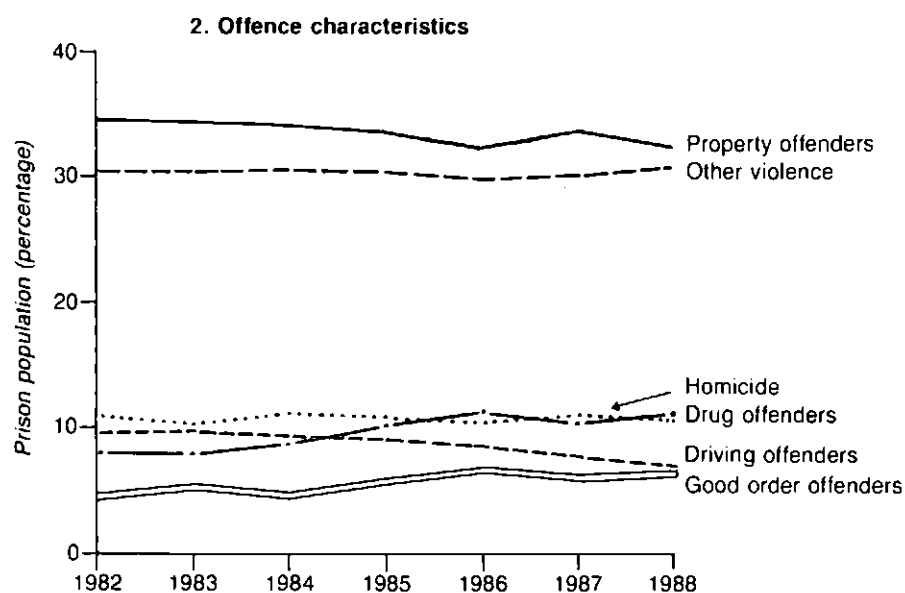
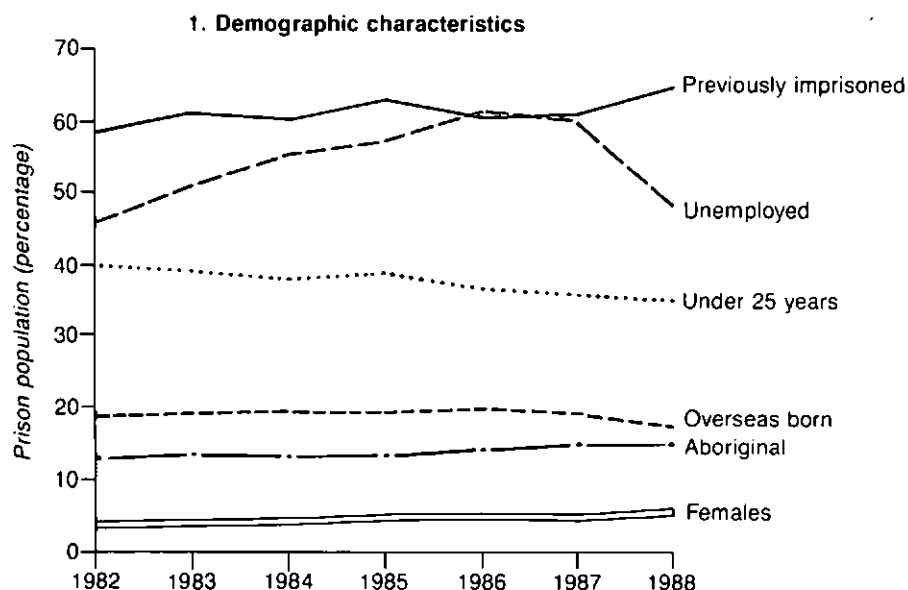
Again there is much information in the Table which readers can discover for themselves. The figures confirm that fine defaults formed an increasing percentage of prisoners between June 1982 and June 1984, and fell thereafter. Their places appear to have been taken partly by remandees and partly by those serving lengthy sentences of five years or more.

Table 2  
Changes in characteristics of prison populations—Australia 1982-88

|                           | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| % under 25                | 39.8 | 39.4 | 37.8 | 38.8 | 36.5 | 35.7 | 34.8 |
| % female                  | 3.4  | 3.9  | 3.9  | 4.6  | 4.8  | 4.7  | 5.3  |
| % Aboriginal <sup>1</sup> | 13.1 | 13.4 | 13.6 | 13.4 | 14.5 | 14.7 | 14.2 |
|                           |      |      |      |      |      | 14.8 | 15.0 |
| % overseas born           | 18.6 | 19.1 | 19.3 | 19.3 | 19.6 | 18.9 | 17.4 |
| % unemployed <sup>2</sup> | 45.6 | 50.9 | 55.2 | 57.0 | 61.2 | 59.8 | 48.4 |
| % prior imprisonment      | 58.3 | 61.1 | 60.3 | 62.8 | 60.3 | 60.6 | 64.2 |
| % homicide                | 10.8 | 10.2 | 11.0 | 10.7 | 10.5 | 10.9 | 10.5 |
| % other violence          | 30.5 | 30.6 | 30.6 | 30.3 | 29.7 | 30.1 | 30.6 |
| % property offences       | 34.6 | 34.6 | 34.2 | 33.6 | 32.3 | 33.7 | 32.4 |
| % good order              | 4.6  | 5.4  | 4.6  | 5.6  | 6.7  | 6.0  | 6.5  |
| % drug offences           | 8.0  | 7.9  | 8.7  | 10.3 | 11.3 | 10.4 | 10.9 |
| % driving offences        | 9.6  | 9.8  | 9.4  | 9.0  | 8.5  | 7.7  | 6.9  |
| % remandees               | 10.6 | 11.4 | 12.0 | 13.7 | 13.1 | 13.2 | 13.9 |
| % fine defaulters         | 2.0  | 2.6  | 3.1  | 2.6  | 2.1  | 2.2  | 2.2  |
| % sentenced < 1 year      | 26.7 | 26.9 | 27.8 | 23.1 | 23.9 | 26.5 | 24.1 |
| % sentenced > 5 years     | 37.4 | 37.4 | 38.1 | 40.6 | 40.3 | 38.3 | 40.9 |
| % sentenced life, GP      | 7.2  | 7.0  | 7.3  | 6.8  | 6.7  | 6.7  | 7.1  |

1. Excluding prisoners whose Aboriginality is unknown. Queensland prisoners are therefore excluded for the years 1982 through 1986. Two sets of figures are given for 1987 and 1988: the first excludes Queensland prisoners and is therefore comparable with the earlier years' data; the second figure includes Queensland prisoners.

2. Excluding New South Wales prisoners—data not available.



The changing demographic composition of the prison population reveals some surprises. For example, the proportion of prisoners aged under 25 years has fallen, during a period in which Australia's population in this age range has been increasing. The proportions of women and of Aborigines in prison have continued to increase despite both being highly contentious issues throughout the nineteen eighties. The proportions of the overseas born and the unemployed both increased initially, but are apparently reducing in the latter part of the decade. The proportion who have previously served time in prison appears to have increased.

It is likely that the diversion, to community based sentences, of those who would previously have served a very short term in prison, has played a role in several of these changes. The proportion of driving offenders, for example, has reduced significantly, and these offenders are predominantly young and male. Keeping such offenders out of prison will therefore tend to reduce the proportions of under 25s and increase the proportions of females.

Trends in both the proportion of prisoners who were unemployed at the time of arrest and who were born overseas have probably followed trends in the wider Australian population, rather than showing any distinct change in the probabilities of imprisonment in these groups.

Increases in the proportion of drug offenders are not hard to understand, but in the context of reducing numbers of receptions for short-term sentences it is difficult to see why the proportion of 'good order' offenders has increased. They are, perhaps, breaches of the community based orders which, we have pointed out, have been imposed in increasing numbers in recent years.

It is also, perhaps, surprising that the proportion of violent offenders has more or less remained constant. The answer is probably because their sentences are relatively long while the number of receptions is very small. The 'turnover' of violent offenders will therefore be very slow, and so the population will remain constant. This does not appear to support the media's contention that violence is rampant in Australian society.

A short article such as this cannot hope to identify all the key indicators of imprisonment rates. Other articles will be produced by the Institute as research continues into the data built up over the last few years. For example, *Trends and Issues* No. 20: 'Prison Sentences in Australia' addresses the subject of what sorts of people are sentenced to prison, in terms of age, sex, Aboriginality, offence-type etc., and how long do they actually serve in prison.

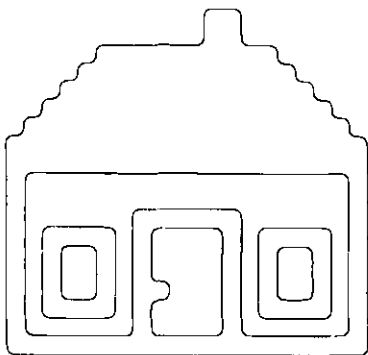
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# Front end or back end, there's no place like home

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Home detention is now being used in three jurisdictions in Australia: Queensland, Northern Territory and South Australia. In the Northern Territory, home detention is used instead of imprisonment—the 'front end' use; in South Australia, it is used with or without electronic supervision for parole purposes at the end of a prison sentence—the 'back end' use. In Queensland, home detention is also a back end operation.

Significant aspects of home detention in the Northern Territory and South Australia are discussed in the two articles that follow.



# Northern Territory home detention

Adapted from a paper prepared by Dennis Challenger, Assistant Director (Information and Training), for a research workshop on alternatives to imprisonment to be held in association with the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders.

For many years, the Northern Territory of Australia has had an imprisonment rate many times the Australian rate. By way of example, in October 1988 the Northern Territory had an imprisonment rate of 231 per 100 000 population compared with a figure of 72 for Australia as a whole. However, the Northern Territory rate is now actually lower than it has been over the last few years, the relative rates for October 1987 being 271 and 74, and before that 271 and 70 (October 1986) and 264 and 68 (October 1985). The decrease in rates is a result of a commitment by Northern Territory Corrective Services (NTCS) to reduce imprisonment rates in the Territory.

Some remarkable successes have already been achieved in this area. Receptions into Territory prisons reduced by 25 per cent in two years from 1986 specifically as a result of conditional liberty programs with the fine default program having the most dramatic result. That program allows fine defaulters to satisfy monetary penalties by carrying out unpaid work in the community under the Community Service Order (CSO) scheme instead of undergoing a prison term. It also permits the use of the CSO program by persons who do not have the resources to pay their fines and who therefore were potential fine default prisoners.

In addition, great emphasis has been placed on diverting offenders from prison through providing sentencers with a range of viable non-custodial sentencing options, and trying to persuade them to use those options through court-based correctional staff being on hand to provide professional advice. This approach reflects the NTCS view that it is better to reduce the number of people entering the prison system by action at the 'front-end' of the sentencing process. So called 'back-end' responses aimed at reducing the number of people in prison include early release schemes for

prisoners, but they can be seen to be interfering with the judicial process by way of reducing a prisoner's sentence. It is this basic philosophy to avoid imprisonment at all which explains why home detention is offered to Northern Territory courts as a sentencing option quite specifically provided as an alternative to prison.

The Northern Territory Home Detention Order (HDO) is, by contrast, available only to a court. That the HDO is an alternative to prison is evidenced by Section 19A(1) of the Criminal Law (Conditional Release of Offenders) Act. It states:

*where an offender is convicted of an offence against a law of the Territory, the court by which the offender is convicted may, if it thinks fit, by order sentence that offender to a term of imprisonment but direct that the sentence be suspended on the offender entering into a home detention order.* (emphasis, D.C.)

Clearly then, a sentencer has not only to decide that a prison term is required or warranted, but actually pass such a sentence before suspending it in favour of a HDO. This not only reduces the chance of net-widening, but also clearly establishes the consequences of breaching the HDO.

## Making a home detention order

A court cannot make a home detention order without the consent of the offender and the Director of NTCS providing a report. Section 19B(1) of the legislation requires that report to state that:

- (i) suitable arrangements are available for the offender to reside at the premises or place specified in the report;
- (ii) the premises or place specified in the report is suitable for the purposes of a home detention order; and
- (iii) the making of the home detention order is not likely to inconvenience or put at risk other persons living in those premises or at that place or the community generally.

For the purposes of making that report, the Director may 'take into account the views of those members of the community who, in the opinion of the Director, may be affected by the making of the home detention order'. The two groups in the community who would be most affected by an offender being placed on a HDO are the offender's own family and the victim (if any) of the offence.

One criticism of home detention is that it places an unfair burden on offenders' families to themselves act as gaolers. In the Northern Territory, great efforts are made to ensure families understand and are comfortable with the concept of home detention. To date, the offences for which

home detention has been used have not involved angry victims. But the above consideration does give an acknowledgement that victims of an offence might have real concerns if the prison sentence was not activated and their views could be considered in the assessment process.

Great care is taken in the assessment process to eliminate the possibility of net-widening and advice is provided to courts in a similar way to a pre-sentence report. Home detention assessments usually take a week to prepare and mandatorily include:

- ☐ welfare checks to ensure problems of child abuse and domestic violence are canvassed;
- ☐ previous convictions as recorded by the police;
- ☐ acknowledgement of the offender's obligations and the full consent of those others resident at the place of detention;
- ☐ consent of employer to random checks at workplace.

## Surveillance

The surveillance of those on HDOs is an important and vital part of the program and the powers given to the officers by the legislation reflect this. Section 19G(2) reads:

*A surveillance officer may, at any time—*  
(a) *without a warrant—*

- (i) *enter premises or a place in or at which an offender is, in accordance with a home detention order, residing; or*
  - (ii) *search those premises or any building at that place, or the offender, for the purposes of determining whether the offender is in breach of the order; or*
- (b) *require an offender under a home detention order to undergo such tests as the surveillance officer thinks fit to determine whether the offender is in breach of the order.*

The tests referred to in (b) above may include a test to determine the presence of alcohol or any other drug in the offender's body. In practice, surveillance officers (or police) can, on a regular or random basis, use hand held breath-testing apparatus to test whether home detainees have been drinking alcohol, although a formal breath test administered by the police is necessary to provide evidence for a court. Random urine tests can be required where a home detainee is suspected of using drugs. (Regulation 3(k) provides that home detainees are not to consume alcohol or any other drug without approval from the Director of NTCS.)

◀ A demonstration of the electronic surveillance process being used in South Australia. A random, computer-generated phone call must be answered by the offender and registered by the lightweight wristlet in the black box in the foreground.

In early 1988, thirty-three surveillance officers were recruited and trained. These paid part-time officers were selected from over 250 applicants and their selection was largely based on maturity and reliability, and included Northern Territory Police security and character checks. A further nine surveillance officers were recruited and trained in early 1989, slightly decreasing the average age of 40 from the first intake. Approximately a quarter are female.

Most of these officers have past involvement in discipline-oriented occupations or are still so employed, while others have no current careers due to family commitments or retirement. Surveillance officers are paid on contract rates and are reimbursed for the use of their private vehicles and telephones.

The surveillance process involves senior staff preparing a roster of face to face visits in advance and, depending on availability, selecting a surveillance officer to carry out the visits. Visits are made to places of residence, work and other places where the offender is permitted to be, and telephone checks are also made.

Surveillance rosters are assisted by computerised random selector and visits now average three in any twenty-four hour period. The minimum is two visits, while up to six have been made in cases where a home detainee's behaviour or movements have raised suspicions about their activities. Offenders are regularly visited in close succession and frequently between midnight and dawn. This is shown in Figure 1, which comprises a chart of actual surveillance for one offender in the early days of the program when sixty random visits were made over a thirty-five day period.

Surveillance officers carry out visits by themselves using a specially prepared contact book for each offender. The book is countersigned by the offender at the time of the visit. Surveillance officers are expected to carry out visits at the time allocated and are themselves checked on to ensure compliance. They are expected to report any suspicious circumstances immediately. No home detainee is aware of which officer will visit, when or where.

Only in exceptional circumstances will home detainees now be given the necessary written permission to consume alcohol during the course of their HDO. In the early months of the program, many home detainees were permitted to consume alcohol in their own homes only and to never exceed .08 per cent blood-alcohol concentration. The .08 per cent blood-alcohol content level was used to teach offenders to control their alcohol intake to within legal driving limits (although in practice that proved to be virtually impossible). The first offender who tested at a level higher than .08 per cent was breached immediately resulting in his being in custody within ten minutes, for an appearance in court the next morning. The swiftness of breach action

is a most important feature of the program.

## Electronic monitoring

The Northern Territory Government now considers the electronic monitoring of home detention offenders as a realistic adjunct to face to face surveillance for suitable offenders. One problem with face to face visits is that they often invade the privacy of other residents at the offender's home and due to their random nature at all hours, can wake children and neighbours.

There is no intention to replace face to face surveillance with an electronic alternative but to balance the use of

- ☐ face to face surveillance;
- ☐ one to one counselling;
- ☐ active electronics, e.g. random phone calls;
- ☐ passive electronics—radio transmitters.

The mix of the four will naturally be dependent on the circumstances of each offender and the formula will be commensurate with program objectives and offender needs.

As the Northern Territory Department of Law has advised that the placement of any device on an offender (even with their consent) could construe a technical assault, and at the least, an invasion of privacy, relevant legislation is being prepared to specifically permit the use of electronic surveillance devices.

## The use of home detention

The home detention program started on 2 February 1988 and has shown slow but steady progress. At the end of June 1989, seventy-one persons had been on the program and had aggregated 6534 days of home detention. Extrapolated to a full year this represents (a saving of) 17.9 prisoner-days of space each day of the year. Alternatively, and based on the estimate of 143 445 prisoner-days of imprisonment in the Northern Territory in a full year, the percentage reduction in imprisonment through the diversion of 63 prisoners (in 1988-89) is therefore in excess of 4 per cent for the year.

Should the home detention program involve a hundred offenders per year, with an average seventy actual prison days each after remissions, then the reduction will be more than 5 per cent. If the number of home detainees in a year is more than a hundred or the length of orders is more than seventy real days of diverted imprisonment, then obviously the saving in prisoner-days will be even greater.

The main offences for which HDOs are imposed are alcohol-related driving offences (65 per cent) and driving while disqualified (15 per cent). Males predominate among the home detainees to date (90 per cent), 58 per cent are

single and 46 per cent are aged 27 or less. The average period of a HDO is 3.3 months.

At the end of June 1989, forty-seven people had satisfactorily completed their HDOs, complying with conditions imposed by the court and the Director of NTCS. Six home detainees have had their HDOs revoked by the court and the original imprisonment term activated and one home detainee absconded interstate and a warrant now exists for his arrest. Sixteen others have had breaches proved but were returned to the program. The success rate therefore, as a percentage of all completions, is currently 85 per cent.

## Home detention for indigenous people

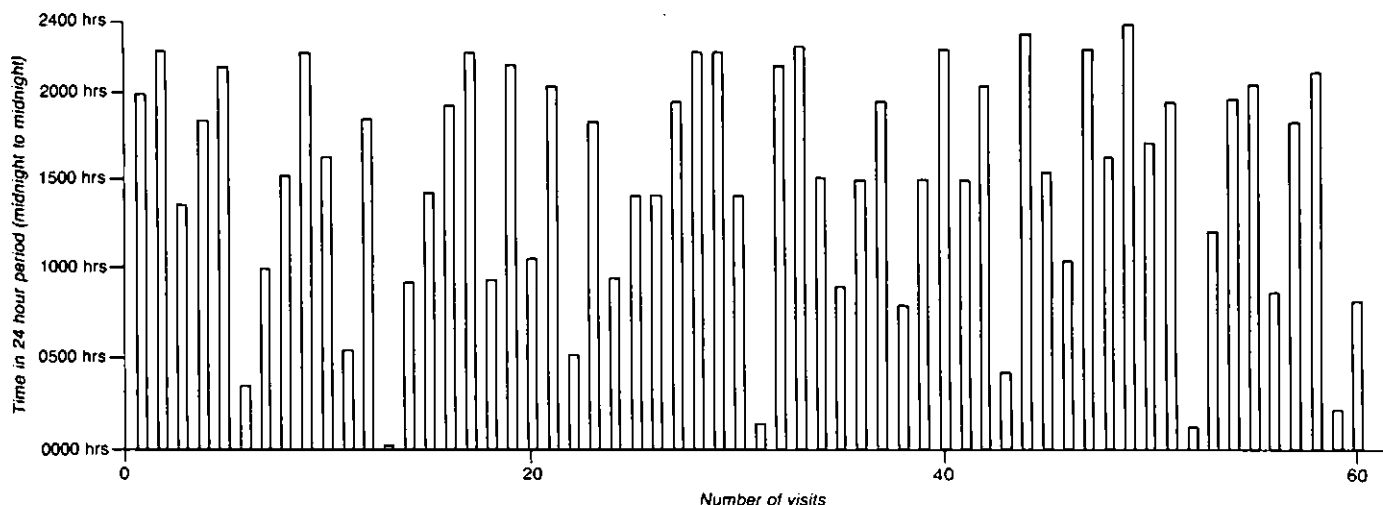
The Northern Territory faces a unique problem in prison management as the majority of its prisoners, (70 per cent), are of Aboriginal descent. In addition, prisoners serve in general, comparatively short periods of incarceration and alcohol is often a related factor. The difficulties posed by indigenous prisoners are a cause for concern in many parts of the world. In the Northern Territory, where indigenous Australians often live on remote communities, a sentence of imprisonment simply removes them further from their community.

A high priority has therefore been placed on further establishing home detention in remote Aboriginal communities and recruitment of surveillance officers is currently under way in Groote Eylandt, an island off the coast (but part) of the Northern Territory, and peopled entirely by Aborigines.

Two traditional Aboriginal men, both of whom had severe alcohol problems, have successfully completed HDOs. The first man, from Yirrkala (a community on the Gulf of Carpentaria), completed the Alcohol Dependence Treatment Unit's three week residential program followed by weekly follow-up meetings as part of his HDO. This man had a long history of alcohol-related crime, including nine offences of driving whilst disqualified and completed an HDO of six months duration, the last six weeks of which were served back at Yirrkala.

The other Aboriginal was from Bagot (an Aboriginal community based in Darwin) and served a four month order for driving offences, conditional upon spending the first two months at the Gordon Symons Hostel for Aborigines with alcohol abuse problems. In the event, arrangements made for supervision back at Bagot proved unsuitable and the order was completed back at the hostel.

A further six Aborigines have been placed on HDOs, but all have been residents of Darwin. Nevertheless, it is the intention of the NTCS to examine every possible avenue for Aboriginal involvement, both in urban and rural



**Figure 1**  
Typical surveillance record for a thirty-five day period, in which a working man on home detention received sixty home visits.

areas. Few major problems exist with residential or surveillance provisions in urban areas, and the use of hostels is also currently being examined. Rural communities, however, do pose greater logistical obstacles, especially through peer group pressure, residential problems and the lack of substance abuse programs or established surveillance procedures.

The process of trialling the program in a rural community will take time and a good deal of community co-operation, in order that program credibility is not placed in jeopardy. It may well result in being viable in some but not all Aboriginal communities. (In fact, one

euro-Australian is currently serving a HDO in a remote Aboriginal community where he is working on a building project.)

## Summary

In effect, home detention is an offender treatment program whereby certain types of offenders can undergo their 'prison' sentences at home. Home detainees undertake to comply with conditions which severely restrict movement and activities beyond attending employment, rehabilitation programs, etc. Notwithstanding these restrictions, 'exit interviews' with home detainees and their families often indicate that the HDO has been a positive and beneficial experience for them.

Fundamental to the success of the home detention scheme is the perception on the part of courts, police, offenders

and the community at large, that home detainees will be subject to strict surveillance under a system which cannot be circumvented.

Surveillance officers are employed to monitor home detainees and while they have certain powers, essentially their function is checking that home detainees are at home. Any breach of home detention conditions leads to prompt return to court.

As public confidence in the program grows, it can be expected that sentencers will be more likely to use the sanction. But the legislation prevents the program from being used for offenders who do not merit a prison sentence. Any increase in numbers of offenders with home detention orders will have to come from those who would have otherwise gone to prison. It is therefore undeniably a valuable alternative to prison.

# South Australian home detention

*Lloyd Ellicksen, Co-ordinator, Home Detention, SA Department of Corrective Services.*

The South Australian Department of Correctional Services introduced the Home Detention Program in early 1987. Legislation was passed through Parliament without undue resistance and with the mild optimism of the media and the South Australian community in general.

Home detention was framed to provide administrative flexibility to the Executive Director of Correctional Services to release selected prisoners to an approved residence under twenty-four hour curfew for a period up to six months prior to normal expected prison release. Only prisoners with sentences less than one year and without conviction of a crime of violence were considered for selection. At that time the Government

made a conscious decision not to introduce home detention as a sentencing alternative. It was considered that home detention as a court option might result in 'net widening' and in effect not assist with the overcrowding problem in prisons.

In order to increase the number in the program and in view of the fact that home detention had been operating successfully for ten months, the criteria were broadened with the approval of Government to allow the selection of prisoners for home detention regardless of offence type or length of sentence. This endorsement for expansion also included Government approval to introduce electronic surveillance equipment to assist home detention supervisors with monitoring the curfew obligations of the prisoners. The response to this decision was one of cautious acceptance by the Government, Opposition and the media. The Council for Civil Liberties supported the monitoring proposal in principle but reserved its full position until the procedures and practices were in place.

## Electronic equipment selection

During the months that followed the decision to introduce electronics, a public tender process took place in which both 'active' and 'passive' electronic systems were considered and studied. Several United States correctional jurisdictions were consulted to gain as much insight as possible as to the interface between their programs and the use of electronic equipment. In the final analysis, the 'passive' computer telephone system was the unanimous choice of the Department of Correctional Services. The deciding factor in this decision included the fact that this 'On Guard' system had a proven record of simplicity and reliability in some sixty American jurisdictions. The device worn by the participants with this system was not of significant size or weight and had the appearance of a piece of costume jewellery and could be worn comfortably on the wrist or the ankle. This system allowed the supervision by

telephone calls to be programmed by the computer so that calls to the particular residence could be scheduled to suit individual circumstances and minimise intrusiveness on the part of the prisoner or other residents. These factors were particularly meaningful to the home detention supervisors as they were already responsible for an overall successful home detention program by balancing their dual role of surveillance and support. It was most important not to jeopardise the human intervention element of the program already established.

## Operation

By mid-November 1988, fifteen electronic units were operational within the Home Detention Unit. A policy was established that prisoners would be nominated by the Co-ordinator, Home Detention, to participate in electronics, based on the type of offence, especially high notoriety offences, and/or the prisoner's history of impulsive behaviour.

When selected for the scheme, the offender is fitted with a light wristlet, which he cannot remove. Several times a day, sometimes in the early morning, the offender's home telephone is run by a computer and the offender clocks in. When he answers the telephone, he says 'hello', waits twenty seconds, gives his name and states the time. He then places what corresponds to the watch face on the wristlet in a small black machine, which validates his position. The routine can vary but the above is fairly typical.

The introduction of electronic surveillance has not affected the number of prisoners applying for the program. Applications from prisoners for the program continue to be received at a steady rate and prisoners have expressed very little concern to the inclusion of electronic monitoring as part of their home detention release conditions.

Those prisoners participating in the electronic monitoring are reviewed regularly and a successful adjustment to the overall program is responded to by discontinuing with electronics. To date, participants have not been involved with electronics for more than an approximate three month period. All participants with electronics have had their wristlets removed during the last few weeks prior to the expiry of home detention. Participants on electronics have received the same minimum two home visits per week from their supervisor as those participants not subject to electronics.

## Cost

The cost of leasing the fifteen units increases the total home detention program cost by three to four dollars per day per prisoner but this small increase still allows the program to operate at approximately one fifth of the cost of

institutional costs per day. A decision was made not to charge prisoners for their participation in home detention or electronic monitoring. An assessment was made that almost all prisoners leaving the institutional setting walked straight into a reality of economic hardship. Forcing a monetary payment for earlier freedom places counter productive pressure on the individual prisoner and the family.

## Success/failure

The South Australian Home Detention Program has not solved the overcrowding problem in prisons. The average of twenty-five to thirty-five prisoners on home detention in any one day only assists in taking the pressure off low security institutional bed space. Home detention has not significantly affected the availability of high security space. Home detention is not a substitute for secure confinement and the practice of releasing only reasonable risk applicants on the program for a maximum period of six months is not expected to alter.

If one measures the success of the South Australian Home Detention Program by prisoners who have failed, then it can be said that one out of six prisoners fail on the program and are returned to prison to finish their sentences. The reasons for failure vary but it would not surprise one acquainted with the criminal justice trends that alcohol and drugs contribute predominantly. The occurrence of fresh offences while on home detention has, as expected, taken place but not to any alarming rate or degree of severity. Nine out of a total of 225 home detainee participants to date are known to have been charged by police for offences while on the program.

## Program responses

Prisoners that have completed their periods on home detention are consistently positive about the program and what it has meant to them. The most common remarks include 'it has really helped me get my life together' and 'if the program didn't make me stay home when I wanted to go out with my mates, then I'd be back in gaol by now'. The enforcement of curfew and the close supportive supervision is also spoken of very positively by the parents and wives of prisoners. They have regularly commented on witnessing better family involvement and the development of good habits around the home.

Domestic tensions can occur because of the restraints of the home detention program and for this reason supervisors interview the prisoner and the residents within the home during the application stage as part of their overall evaluation. The Prisoner Assessment Committee in turn considers any indications of past family violence or potential disharmony

and will not recommend approval if the risk of family discord is too great. The regular home visits by supervisors monitor relationships and in cases where any tensions develop and the situation cannot be resolved, alternative accommodation including a return to prison is acted upon.

Approximately 60 per cent of all participants on the program to date have held employment or attended adult education courses. It has not been uncommon for an employer of a prisoner to comment that 'this guy is the most dependable fellow I have'. Unemployed prisoners are encouraged to seek employment and attend job interviews. For the unemployed, the boredom of curfew is often countered by involvement in gardening, home maintenance or vehicle restoration or repairs. The pressure of curfew is also relieved by allowing attendance at a fitness centre or to participate with shopping.

## Summary

South Australia has experienced a high degree of acceptance from all sectors involved or interested in the home detention program. There seems to be the general view that the program possesses the necessary protective elements for the community but that it also provides the prisoner with rehabilitative opportunities. The introduction of electronic monitoring equipment has not altered this positive endorsement of the program. The Department is not aware of any concern held or recently expressed by the Council for Civil Liberties.

The introduction of electronic monitoring equipment has not diminished or undervalued the need for human intervention. The use of electronics simply provides the mechanism to intensify the supervision of curfew obligations. This factor also enhances the credibility of the total home detention program. The selection of 'appropriate' equipment to suit the program's objectives and operation is seen as the key factor for both public and prisoner acceptance. The frequency and timing of computer calls is scheduled to take into account the individual prisoner and other residents in the home. The wristlet is lightweight, fits as comfortably as a wrist watch and is not obviously recognisable.

Home detention is not an easy option for prisoners because of the curfew restrictions and total alcohol abstinence. A prisoner's commitment to the program is the key ingredient for success. Non-compliance to a condition of release is dealt with sternly and outright breaches result in a return to prison immediately. This firmness is tempered with caring and supportive supervision to give the participant every chance of adjustment and reintegration back to community life.



Peter Ling\*

# Higher education courses in crime and social responses in Victoria

## Course orientation

The possibilities in direction, depth and delivery for criminology and criminal justice education are even more diverse than the range of professions and agencies in the field.

The array of possible course titles for study programs in the criminal justice area is indicative of the multitude of interests and the span of areas on which courses might focus. They range at the broadest from titles such as Police Studies, Justice, Criminal Justice, or Criminology to titles such as Legal Studies, Court Administration, or Correctional Administration, through to recruit and promotion programs conducted by agencies and short courses on specific topics such as firearms training, or court security which form an element of the work of particular agencies.

In most of these areas a number of possibilities are open for the educational focus of the courses. They may concentrate on operational skills and knowledge, on managerial skills and knowledge, or they may deal in philosophical and socio-political frameworks, concentrating on broad policy issues. Depending on the specific educational function, the programs may

have tight vocational specificity, broad professional relevance or simply be directed at providing an understanding of social behaviour. This article surveys only the courses in the higher education area. Confined to this area the possibility is still open that at least the courses of broader title such as those in criminal justice, legal studies or criminology may essentially constitute either a professionally oriented program or a liberal study.

## A liberal approach

Courses in legal studies, which consorts with law, and criminology, in so far as it is derived from established social sciences, may claim status as liberal rather than utilitarian studies. A course in criminal justice may not be liberal in the classical sense of constituting a polite intellectual exercise for the stimulation of the mental faculties, but may be liberal in the sense of comprising a disciplined and detached analysis of criminal justice for the sake of enhancing appreciation of an aspect of social environment.

This raises the question of whether there is any distinction between a liberal study of criminal justice and a study of criminology. There are two issues, the breadth of the field of study of criminology and of criminal justice, and the possible socio-educational functions of the two approaches.

On the issue of breadth, if criminology is, as seen by G.M. Sykes (*Criminology*, 1979, p. 6), a study of the origins of criminal law, the administration of justice, the causes of criminal behaviour, the prevention and control of crime, and the rehabilitation and modification of the social environment, then there is no distinction. If, however, a narrower definition of criminology is adopted, such as that of S. Hurwitz and K.O. Christiansen (*Criminology*, 1983, p. 1) which confines criminology to the

exploration of criminal behaviour and the social factors associated with crime and criminals, then a study of criminal justice may incorporate a study of criminology, but must extend beyond that to a critical study of the nature and components of the criminal justice systems, their role and modes of operation, and of other matters which may impinge on criminal justice, but which do not necessarily impinge on criminal behaviour.

On the issue of socio-educational function, Richard Quinney (*Class, State and Crime*, Second Edition, 1980, pp. 9-15) identified the introduction of criminal justice programs in United States colleges and universities with a 'state-supported effort to rationalize mechanisms of social control . . . to secure a capitalist order that is in grave crisis'. He contrasts it to criminology courses taught in sociology departments which consider crime in the context of broad studies of society, including class structures and social control. Criminal justice, from this perspective, deals with the effectiveness of criminal justice systems and, at its most liberal with micro-level issues of equity within the system, distracting from broader critiques. If one accepts the concept of a liberal study, and accepts that as an educational approach it may be applied to criminal justice, then there is no inherent reason why criminal justice cannot address macro-social issues and indeed there is an obligation to do so. Insofar as it takes a liberal approach, criminal justice is not a tool of the system. While a liberal study in criminal justice may attract, and is likely to attract, people with an interest in working in the field, neither its areas of study nor its approach can be dictated by representatives of the field without compromising the essential requirements of a liberal study.

In Australia it is difficult to represent the introduction of criminal justice to higher education as a conspiracy of the capitalist state in the way in which Quinney claims it was such a conspiracy in the United States. Courses in Australia

Dr Peter Ling



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have arisen from the initiatives of colleges, and indeed from departments and individuals within them, rather than from the state or from criminal justice agencies. The state has provided funding, as it does for all approved tertiary education courses, but its role has been merely permissive.

## **Program delivery in Victoria**

### **University of Melbourne**

The University of Melbourne has a substantial and growing involvement in the field of criminology. The Department of Criminology located in the Faculty of Arts has some ten members of staff. The University hopes to establish a Chair in Criminology within the next few years.

The department offers both undergraduate and graduate programs. The undergraduate course is open to students undertaking a Bachelor of Arts as they enter their second year, in which a full year subject in Criminology is available. In the third year, pass students may undertake two semester units in Criminology. Honours students take three units of Criminology in their third year and may go on to a fourth year in which they undertake a pure or partial study in Criminology. Law students may also elect to take the second year Criminology subject.

The longest established criminology program in the University is the post-graduate Diploma of Criminology. This program has in the past been oriented to part-time students with appropriate experience in the field and entry has been permitted to some students on the basis of their professional experience. The program consists of eight semester units normally being taken over two years on a part-time basis or one year on a full time basis. A quarter of the students are now full time and the diploma is attracting graduates of Legal Studies courses and Bachelors of Arts programs in cognate fields. In addition to specialist units in criminology and aspects of the criminal justice system the course offers units in social control, elements of gender, age and occupation related to crime, psychology and psychiatry and crime, issues and current research in criminology, and research methodology.

Dr Ken Polk, head of the Department of Criminology, sees the future focus of the department being the development of multi-disciplinary academic approaches to criminology with a particular emphasis on the development of Masters/Ph.D programs rather than in the Diploma of Criminology area.

At the post graduate level the department offers a Masters by advanced study in Criminology which is based 40 per cent on course work, Masters program by thesis and a Ph.D program.

### **La Trobe University**

A substantial Legal Studies Department of some 40 academic staff provides a base for a variety of undergraduate and post-graduate courses in Legal Studies and in the area of criminology.

Bachelor of Arts programs with majors in legal studies are available both at the pass and honours level. Legal studies constitutes one of the three core teaching disciplines in the School of Social Sciences. Students may elect to take up to five of the nine units required to complete a Bachelor of Arts pass degree in Legal Studies. Students taking honours may be required to take additional work in second and third year and must complete a fourth year of advanced study. The breadth of legal studies available reflects the objective of the department to communicate an understanding of the concepts, tools and techniques of law as a distinctive scheme of social order. The composition of the department is interdisciplinary, and individual subjects draw on the insight of discipline such as sociology, political science, philosophy, law, economics, and anthropology, insofar as these can illuminate the issues of law in society. As well as covering the content of criminal law, studies cover diverse areas of law in society such as Aborigines and law, accidents and the law, law and criminal behaviour, and criminology and legal psychology. It is not the intention to prepare undergraduate students for careers in the legal profession, though some may choose to subsequently take up LL.B program. Most students on completion of the course, if they do not proceed to further study, take up positions in public administration, particularly in the welfare area, jobs in private industry in which legal issues feature or prepare for teaching.

A diploma in Legal Studies is available to graduates from a variety of areas who wish to complement their undergraduate studies with a course in legal studies. At the postgraduate level programs are offered in both criminology and legal studies. Dr Andrew Kapardis, the co-ordinator of postgraduate programs, states that it is the area of criminology which is expanding most rapidly. A Master of Arts by course work is available in Criminological Studies, in which two-thirds of the program is completed by course work and one-third by dissertation. Master of Arts and Ph.D programs are also available in both Criminology and Legal Studies on a thesis basis. The department hopes shortly to introduce a Diploma in Criminology Studies which will provide a bridging course for pass degree students who wish to move onto Masters level and Ph.D programs. Dr Kapardis emphasises the depth and breadth of staffing in the Legal Studies Department which ensures that supervision for postgraduate programs is available in a wide variety of areas.

### **Phillip Institute of Technology**

An Associate Diploma in Criminal Justice Administration was established at Phillip Institute of Technology in 1976. The program, which includes two years of specialised studies in criminal justice systems and criminology and is supported by studies in sociology, psychology and management, is offered on a part-time basis, essentially to practitioners in the field. The largest single group of participants have been police followed by people involved in courts administration and correctional administration. The program has also attracted a range of other students including people from the private security area. The major change in the program over the past few years has been the restructuring of the course to articulate it with the Bachelor of Arts course.

The Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice Administration was established in 1983. It offers a three year major study in criminal justice systems and criminology, supported by foundation studies in sociology, psychology, economics and management. Students also take a sub-major study in public administration. The program, initially taken largely by practitioners on a part-time basis, now admits mainly full time students who wish to establish a professional future in law enforcement, correctional administration or courts administration. It is also undertaken as an arts program with an orientation to understanding of crime and criminal justice systems by students planning to pursue further studies in these fields or planning to undertake a relevant teaching career.

Dr Geoffrey Asher, director of the program, states that the move from a practitioner student body to a combination of experienced personnel and full time students who lack experience in the field has required an adaptation of programs. A major review of the course undertaken this year will provide for better discrimination of these student needs in the future.

### **Chisholm Institute of Technology**

Police Studies has been the speciality of Chisholm Institute of Technology. The established program is the Associate Diploma in Police Studies, which is nominally a two year full time course but which is mostly taken on a part-time basis. The Associate Diploma requires completion of fourteen subjects, three in Police Studies, three in Legal Studies, four in Social or Behavioural Sciences, and four elective studies. Most of the students are serving police officers, though graduates of the TAFE Advanced Certificate in Law Enforcement are admitted with standing in four units. Some of the students come from security and related services.

A Bachelor of Arts program with a major in Police Studies has been available for the past two years. The Police Studies major comprises eight of the twenty subjects required for the course. It is possible to combine Police Studies with a major in psychology, sociology, politics, literature, cinema or labour studies. Wider options are also available with the approval of the Board of Studies. Various combinations of police studies with management and accounting studies are options. Minor studies are also available in a variety of areas including Traffic Policing Studies undertaken in Engineering.

It is possible now through arrangements with Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education to take portions of the B.A. program off-campus, though not the specialist police studies units.

Mr Robert Smith, co-ordinator of the police studies program, anticipates the offering of an innovative range of course combinations and the development of postgraduate studies when the amalgamation with Monash University is completed in 1990. Possibilities include a combined BA/LL.B degree with a major in Police Studies. It is also hoped to develop a Master of Police Studies by course work and dissertation.

The BA program with a Police Studies major is pursued mainly by part-time students but is open to full time enrolments.

### Other Legal Studies programs

Legal Studies may also be taken as a major or minor sequence at Ballarat College of Advanced Education, Deakin University and Monash University.

### Reflection

While it would be wrong to style any of the courses offered as vocationally irrelevant on the one hand or entirely dictated by utility on the other, it can be said that the university courses in criminology and legal studies focus on the academic pursuit while the institute courses in police studies and criminal justice administration have been structured with professional preparation and development in mind. One can only speculate on what will occur when the two approaches meet under the same institutional umbrella with coming amalgamations between colleges and universities.

### References

- Hurwitz, S. and Christiansen, K.O. *Criminology*. London, Allen & Unwin, 1983.  
 Quinney, Richard. *Class, State and Crime*. New York, David McKay, 1980.  
 Sykes, G.M. *Criminology*. New York, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1979.



In these service pages, *Criminology Australia* intends to present as much news as possible on new publications, conferences and appointments. To do this we will need to receive the notification as early as possible, preferably over six months ahead in the case of conferences, seminars and courses. News about events in South East Asia and the Pacific are particularly welcome. Please address copy to Jack Sandry, Editor *Criminology Australia*, PO Box 28, Woden, ACT 2606.

### Publisher: Australian Institute of Criminology

PO Box 28, Woden, ACT 2606

Challinger, D. (ed) 1989.

#### *Armed Robbery*

Seminar Proceedings No. 26.

ISBN 0 642 14015 4. 128 pp. \$12.00.

*Armed Robbery* raises many issues of public concern, such as the availability of guns in the Australian community, the effect of the media on the incidence of armed robbery, and issues relating to the administration of the criminal justice system. This seminar brought together members of the police force, the security industry, the banking community, psychologists, academics and many others. The proceedings provides case studies of armed robbery, outlines possible causes, suggests methods of reducing the incidence of this violent crime, advises of assistance currently available to victims and describes possible responses to armed robbery in the future.

Easteal, P.W.

*Vietnamese Refugees: Crime rates of minors and youths in New South Wales*  
 ISBN 0 642 14613 6. 60 pp. \$10.00.

This book provides authoritative data on the issue of Vietnamese youth involvement in criminal activity. It makes an important contribution to an understanding of matters relating to the integration of the Vietnamese community in Australian society. Quantitative data have been carefully collected and analysed, and compared to data on non-Vietnamese youth offenders. Topics covered include rates of a range of offences for minors and other young offenders aged 18-24

years, including drug offences, violent crimes and variations in crime by these groups in different residential areas.

Debaecker, F. 1989.

*Australian Prisoners 1987*

ISBN 0 642 14457 5. 108 pp. \$12.00.

Walker, J. 1989.

*Australian Prisoners 1988*

ISBN 0 642 14654 3. 130 pp. \$15.00.

Both volumes are available at \$22.00 per set.

The sixth and seventh annual volumes of *Australian Prisoners* contain results of the National Prison Censuses held on 30 June 1987 and 1988 respectively. Like their predecessors, both volumes are a vital tool for all working in the fields of criminology, corrections, probation and parole, and indeed the social sciences generally. The National Prison Census is conducted on the night of 30 June each year and includes all persons, convicted and unconvicted, held in adult correctional institutions in all Australian jurisdictions.

Geason, S. and Wilson, P. 1989.

*Designing out Crime: Crime Prevention through Environmental Design*

ISBN 0 642 14307 2. 66 pp. \$10.00.

*Designing out crime* is the third in the Crime Prevention series of booklets. It is aimed at the home owner and the home builder. The problems of both public and private housing are addressed and all aspects of security and surveillance are covered. One useful feature of this handbook is the checklist on how to beat the burglar.

Pasmore, J. and Walker, J. 1989.

*A Computer Forecasting Model for Predicting Requirements for Beds in Secure Custody Juvenile Corrections Institutions*

ISBN 0 642 14508 3. 82 pp. \$10.00.

Also available in IBM-PC compatible Fortran on disk. Assistance can be arranged for implementation; costs depend on the level of assistance required.

Juvenile institutions can now forecast their future needs with a new computer program known as the Juvenile Institutions Forecasting (JIF) model. JIF is interactive—it can be updated at any time to include new trends, events and policy initiatives, and is a valuable research and planning tool for juvenile corrections institutions. Developed to assist the Queensland Department of Family Services in the planning of secure custody accommodation, JIF is adapted from a forecasting model designed for adult prison populations (also available on disc). This report describes the JIF model, its development and how it works. It includes practical information which will enable readers to implement the JIF model.

Vernon, J. and Bracey D. (eds) 1989.  
*Police Resources and Effectiveness*  
Seminar Proceedings No. 27.  
ISBN 0 642 14296 3. 194 pp. \$12.00.

With the current pressure on all aspects of government spending there is growing demand to obtain value for the police dollar. The significantly increasing cost of police services in Australia (around \$2000m per annum) raises many issues, including whether or not expenditure on police forces should be increased or contained; whether or not current police resources are being utilised efficiently and effectively; how police performance can be measured and how much say the community should have in the allocation of this money. These are some of the issues canvassed in this Australian Institute of Criminology seminar: *Police Resources and Effectiveness*.

**Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice series**

General Editor, Dr Paul Wilson  
ISSN 0817-8542

(Subscription \$15 per annum)  
No. 19, Potas, I. 1989.

*Life Imprisonment in Australia*  
ISBN 0 642 14743 4.

No. 20, Walker, J. 1989.  
*Prison Sentences in Australia*  
ISBN 0 642 14747 7.

**National Committee on Violence**

Violence Today series  
ISSN 1032-7894 (Included in Trends and Issues subscription price of \$15.00)

No. 3, Dwyer, Kim and Strang, Heather 1989.

*Violence Against Children*  
ISBN 0 642 14606 3.

No. 4, Wenn, Brian 1989.  
*Violence in Sport*  
ISBN 0 642 14748 5.

**Publisher: CCH Australia Ltd**

PO Box 230, North Ryde, NSW 2113

*Australian Family Law and Practice, and also*

*Australian Family Law Court Handbook\**  
Two year Subscription \$618 p.a. +  
First year installation of \$70  
1 year Subscription \$680 +  
installation of \$70  
NB Subscriptions due to rise from 1 July 1989.

\*Available separately—  
2 year Subscription \$110 p.a. +  
First year installation of \$20  
1 year Subscription \$120 +  
installation \$20

The *Australian Family Law and Practice* is a three volume, loose-leaf reporting service providing current information and practical advice on a wide range of issues in family law, including counselling, injunctions, courts procedure, legal aid, precedents and many others. Approximately every three weeks subscribers receive a comprehensive

updating report covering all of the latest developments in family law.

The *Australian Family Law Court Handbook* is a portable reference for the information most often used in court, for example, the *Family Law Act*, some precedents regularly used in court, court sitting dates for all states and territories, and more. Separate updating reports to the *Court Handbook* will be issued regularly.

**The Australian and New Zealand Criminal Law Letter**

(minimum of ten issues per annum)  
2 year subscription \$198 p.a.  
1 year subscription \$220 p.a.

This publication provides a means of keeping up to date with criminal law developments. A typical issue will include:

- ☐ short feature article on some area of current interest;
- ☐ a section called Case Digests which contains summaries of recent High Court and other important criminal law cases (includes both reported and unreported cases);
- ☐ explanations of recent Commonwealth, State and Territory legislation;
- ☐ lists of Bills which track the progress of legislation;
- ☐ latest developments in practice.

**Publisher: Pluto Press Australia Ltd**

PO Box 199, Leichardt, NSW 2040

Grabosky, P. and Wilson, P. 1989:  
*Journalism and Justice: How Crime is Reported*  
ISBN 0 949138 28 2. 158 pp. \$14.95.

This book is a study of the way journalists and their media organisations report—and construct—crime news. Based on dozens of interviews with print, radio and television journalists, editors and producers, *Journalism and Justice* examines:

- ☐ How and which crime stories are selected
- ☐ The relationship between journalists and the police
- ☐ Why stories about prisons and prisoners are not news
- ☐ How the law of defamation shields the rich and powerful
- ☐ Why corporate crime receives relatively little news coverage
- ☐ Media owners' lack of interest in investigative journalism
- ☐ The moral judgements which surround crime reporting.

**Publisher: Richard Ackland**

GPO Box 2669, Sydney 2001

*The Gazette of Law and Journalism*  
ISSN 0818-0148

Subscriptions: \$165 for 10 issues.  
This journal provides—

- ☐ Comprehensive reports of the latest defamation and contempt trials
- ☐ Details of legislation affecting broadcasters and the print media
- ☐ New defamation and contempt actions commenced against publishers
- ☐ Settlements of defamation cases, often with exclusive reports of the not-for-publication damaged and payments into court
- ☐ Reviews and explanations of important developments in media law and policy.

The next issue will review the defence of comment, and include the following case reports: Melbourne—Elsa Davis case; Sydney—Morgan's case, Brown and Murray Trial, and Carson v Slee; ACT—McNicol v ACT Health Authority, Bogusz v Truth Newspapers; NT—Mann v Peter Isaacson Publications; WA—The Queen v Thompson.

**Publisher: University of Adelaide**

Law School, Adelaide, SA 5000

David St. L. Kelly (ed) 1989.  
*Essays on Legislative Drafting in Honour of J Q Ewens CBE, CMG QC*  
ISBN 0 908 44806 0. \$24.95.

A collection of eleven essays on legislative drafting by noted Australasian jurists, in celebration of the eightieth birthday of the distinguished First Parliamentary Counsel of the Commonwealth of Australia, John Qualtrough Ewens. Themes addressed in the essays include the use of plain English in the Law and the role of drafting in law reform.

Stewart, Andrew, Lecturer in Law, University of Sydney 1989.

With commentaries by: Judge Peter McCusker and D.J. Bleby QC.  
*Unfair Dismissal in South Australia: A Legal Guide to claims under Section 31 of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1972*  
ISBN 0 863 96073 1. \$19.50.

This book is primarily intended to assist lawyers, union officials and personnel managers in South Australia, but the issues and principles discussed, particularly those relating to the adjudication of fairness and the role of compensation as a remedy, will be of interest to those concerned with this topic in other jurisdictions.

**Corporate and Business Law Journal 1988 and 1989.**

General Editor, K.G. Nicholson  
Subscriptions Vol. 2, Nos. 1 & 2: \$40.00.

This journal presents articles, analyses and items of information of particular interest to people concerned with aspects of commercial law, including legal and other academics, legal practitioners and the accounting profession.

# Forthcoming Conferences, Seminars and Courses

## Australian Institute of Criminology

### DNA and Criminal Justice 30-31 October 1989, Canberra

This conference will discuss issues related to the impact of DNA technology on forensic science, on the work of police and lawyers, on victims of crime, citizens' rights, and the community at large. The sessions will cover:

- ☐ The Scientific Basis of DNA Technology
- ☐ The 'Legal' Potential of DNA Technology
- ☐ Collection of Material for DNA testing in Criminal Matters
- ☐ The Court Process
- ☐ A Central DNA Register

### Improving Access to Justice: The Future of Paralegal Professionals 27-28 November 1989, Canberra

The costs of legal services continue to increase and that raises obvious difficulties in the criminal justice area. One response to this problem is to utilise the services of paralegals and this seminar will consider the current use of paralegal professionals both here and overseas, and possible developments by way of expanding opportunities and training in the future.

### Keeping People Out of Prison 27-29 March 1990, likely venue Hobart

The increasing use of community-based correctional orders, and the demand that such orders be used to reduce prison populations form the focus for this conference. The strains on community-based correctional officers, their range of duties and roles will be discussed as will the success of various community-based activities operating in Australia.

### The Future of Committals 1-2 May 1990, Canberra

Getting the most out of scarce court resources is a major concern of most Australian governments and removing committal hearings has been suggested as one way of doing this. This conference will consider the virtues and drawbacks of that proposition on a national basis, drawing upon the experience of the various jurisdictions.

## Librarians in the Criminal Justice System

5-7 June 1990, Canberra

This will be the seventh biennial seminar for criminal justice librarians to meet and discuss developments in library services, databases and technology. The seminar will be practically oriented and involve workshops and on-site visits to library facilities.

## Preventing Youth Suicide

24-25 July 1990, likely venue Adelaide

The continuing problem of youth suicide is an issue of major concern in Australia today. This conference will consider and then focus on preventive programs that have proved successful overseas and which could be used in Australia.

For further information on any of the above conferences, please contact Dennis Challinger or Julia Vernon on (062) 833 807, or write to:

Assistant Director  
(Information and Training)  
Australian Institute of Criminology  
PO Box 28, Woden, ACT 2606

## ACT Drug Indicators Project, and The National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse

### 2nd National Drug Indicators Conference

20-22 September 1989,  
Bellevue Hotel, Brisbane

This conference is an initiative of the National Campaign against Drug Abuse. Each day of the program will cover a different topic:

- ☐ Illegal drug use in Australia: A National Overview;
- ☐ Breaking the Mould: New Techniques and Populations in Drug Research;
- ☐ Making Drug Research Relevant to Policy Formulation.

Speakers will include Dr Peter d'Abbs, Northern Territory Drug and Alcohol Bureau, Dr Aileen Plant, Department of Public Health, Sydney, and Senator Peter Baume.

## Human Rights Congress

### Human Rights In Australia—Challenges for the 1990s 23-25 September 1989, University of Melbourne

The Congress will cover a wide variety of issues relating to human rights in Australia, for example, The State of Community Relations, Age Discrimination, The Importance of Privacy as a Human Right, Homeless Children, Education about Human Rights, and many others. The format will be a variety of concurrent seminars in the mornings, followed by concurrent workshops in the afternoons.

Registration fee: \$180.00

For further information on the Congress

contact Mary Moyano, and for further information on Travel and Accommodation contact Louise Read, at:

The Congress Secretariat  
Sue Wood & Associates Pty Ltd  
1st Floor, 387 Malvern Road  
South Yarra, Victoria 3141  
Telephone: (03) 824 0022  
Facsimile: (03) 240 0771

## Department of Legal Studies, La Trobe University

### Law and Society Conference 12-14 December 1989, La Trobe University

For more information contact:

The Convenors  
Law and Society Conference  
Department of Legal Studies  
La Trobe University  
Bundoora, Victoria 3083

Enquiries should be addressed to:

Paul Havemann (03) 479 1284  
Christine Shortall (03) 479 2284

## International

### 9th Commonwealth Law Conference 16-20 April 1990, Auckland, New Zealand

More than 100 speakers will deliver papers in over 50 sessions at the conference. The speakers represent the peak of legal tradition in their home country and include: the Rt Hon Sir Shridath Ramphal, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat; the Hon Madame Justice Bertha Wilson, the first woman to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Canada; the Hon Mr Justice Rasjooner Lallah, recently appointed chairman of the United Nations Human Rights Committee; the Rt Hon Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the British Lord Chancellor; and many others. The program will cover a number of wide-ranging issues including:

- ☐ international environmental problems;
- ☐ liability for technological disasters;
- ☐ indigenous peoples and the law;
- ☐ China and Hong Kong in the 1990s;
- ☐ juveniles and the legal process.

For further information, contact your local Law Society or Bar Association, or:

Commonwealth Law Conference  
PO Box 12-422, Auckland, New Zealand  
Telephone (649) 525 1240  
Facsimile (649) 525 1243

### Crime Congress: 1990 8th United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders 27 August-7 September 1990 (tentative), Havana, Cuba (tentative)

The objective of the United Nations Crime Congress is to promote international co-operation in the field of crime

prevention and control. The Congress is also expected to finalise and recommend for adoption by the legislative bodies of the United Nations a number of draft model treaties, standards, norms and guidelines. The theme of this congress is 'International Co-operation in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for the Twenty-First Century'. For further information please contact:

Eduardo Vetere  
Executive Secretary  
Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders  
United Nations Office at Vienna  
PO Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria  
Tel: 21131-4272 or 21131-5278  
Telex: 135612  
Facsimile: 232156

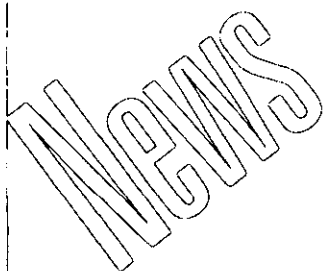
### Policing Studies

A new course now operates at Charles Sturt University—Riverina at Wagga Wagga.

The Policing Studies course is offered in two stages with the first stage leading to the award of an Associate Diploma of Social Science (Policing Studies) after four years part-time study, and a further two years study for the award of a Bachelor of Social Science (Policing Studies). The course places a strong emphasis on elements of sociology, politics and psychology, as well as subjects from the communication and administration areas.

In this way, the course aims to provide students with an understanding of the sociological dynamics of Australian society, the psychology both of individuals and groups, and the social and political structures of the society in which police operate.

Applications for enrolment for 1990 close on 1 November. Further information on the course is available from the Course Co-ordinator, Dr Frank Molloy, in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Charles Sturt University—Riverina, telephone (069) 222 249.



### Award for research into white-collar crime

Editorial adviser to *Criminology Australia*, Dr John Braithwaite, has gained an American award for his work on white-collar crime. Dr Braithwaite is a professorial fellow in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University.

Dr Braithwaite received the 1988 Donald R. Cressey Memorial Award, established to honour the memory of the founder of the Institute for Financial Crime Prevention, in Austin, Texas, and bestowed annually on an outstanding contributor to the field of white-collar crime.

Dr Braithwaite is the author or co-author of many papers and several books including: *Corporate Crime in the Pharmaceutical Industry*; *Crime, Shame and Reintegration*; *Of Manners Gentle: Enforcement Strategies of Australian Business Regulatory Agencies*; *To Punish or Persuade: Enforcement of Coal Mine Safety* and *The Impact of Publicity on Corporate Offenders*. He is also a part-time commissioner with the Trade Practices Commission.

Dr Braithwaite was a criminologist with the Australian Institute of Criminology from 1978 to 1982.

### UN Crime Congress Asian and Pacific Regional Meeting in Tokyo

Dr Satyanshu Mukherjee, Principal Criminologist, and acting Assistant Director Research and Statistics, will be in Japan from 22 September to 7 November 1989. He has been invited to take up a Professorship (visiting expert) at the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), Fuchu, Tokyo. While in Japan Dr Mukherjee will be engaged in:

- ☐ writing jointly with the UNAFEI staff, the Asia and the Pacific regional report of the Third United Nations Survey of Crime Trends, Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and Crime Prevention Strategies. The regional and global reports will be presented at the 8th United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 1990;

- ☐ lecturing on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the context of Development at a seminar course at the Tokyo Institute. Criminal Justice practitioners from the Asia and Pacific region will participate in the course;
- ☐ assessing the nature and level of juvenile delinquency in Japan.

Dr Mukherjee's visit is financed by UNAFEI, Tokyo.

### Dr Paul Wilson to attend Rutgers University, USA

Dr Paul Wilson, Assistant Director Research and Statistics, will be attending Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey, at the invitation of Professor Ron Clarke for six months sabbatical leave from 17 August 1989. His study program will include:

- ☐ developing with Ron Clarke an outline of a possible manual/book on crime prevention that could be used by criminal justice/business managers;
- ☐ writing an academic paper on a relevant crime prevention topic;
- ☐ researching practical innovations in situational crime prevention and their practical implementation in the USA;
- ☐ updating current Institute monographs partly written or planned in the Crime Prevention series (Preventing Vandalism and Graffiti, Crime Prevention in Shopping Centres, Transport Security, Council Property Security).

### Institute Librarian assists Helsinki Institute

Mr John Myrtle, Institute Librarian, travelled to Finland in April 1989, to advise the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (which is affiliated with the United Nations—HEUNI) on the development of a suitable computer-based library system. Mr Myrtle assisted the HEUNI Library in the utilisation of INMAGIC database software, which is already used by the Institute's J. V. Barry Memorial Library. As a result of this consultancy the two institutes are now able to exchange information freely using this common database software.

Whilst in Helsinki, Mr Myrtle attended the UN European Preparatory Meeting as an official observer.