

AIC Newsletter

Summer 1997

Australian Institute of Criminology

Dramatic year for AIC

By Adam Graycar
Director, Australian Institute
of Criminology

It is a long time since we have communicated with all of our friends and I hope you find this brief newsletter a satisfactory medium of contact with the Australian Institute of Criminology.

We anticipate that *AIC Newsletter* (some long-standing readers might recognise that this is a recycled title!) will be sent out four times per year. It will also be on the World Wide Web. This newsletter can only cover a small fraction of our activities and more detailed activities; descriptions of our work (including publications, conferences, and summaries of research activities) can be found on the web at <http://www.aic.gov.au>. If you do not have internet access, please contact us in the way that suits you best.

1996 was a dramatic year for the AIC. We started 1996 by moving into a new building, and enduring all of the difficulties that a big move entails. The building was officially opened by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, The Hon. Daryl Williams AM QC MP, in July 1996. The election of the Coalition Government and the election of many new Members of Parliament focussed our attention on providing information services to Members and to the Government about ever-pervasive and increasingly complex patterns of crime in Australia.

The Port Arthur tragedy of April 1996 made for a particularly busy time at the AIC as we reoriented some of our priorities to provide value-added information on items such as firearms, violence and on

media portrayals. The ability of the Institute to move quickly and flexibly around topics of current concern and to provide information and advice adds, I believe, to our stature. This was recognised when the Australasian Police Ministers' Council asked the Institute to monitor the impact of new firearms regulations.



The Commonwealth Attorney-General, Mr Daryl Williams (right) and the Director of the AIC, Dr Adam Graycar, opening speakers at the Institute's Second National Outlook Symposium on Crime in Australia

Planning commenced about a year ago for our Second National Outlook Symposium on Crime in Australia (March 1997) and this was an opportunity to bring together the nation's leading analysts and practitioners and policymakers. The Symposium is to be addressed by the Hon. Daryl Williams, and the Minister for Social Security and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women, Senator The Hon. Jocelyn Newman.

At the end of 1996, three research staff left the Institute - Lynn Atkinson, Diane Dagger and David McDonald. We thank them for their contributions and wish them well in their new endeavours. The In-

stitute's new structure includes five research groups: Sophisticated & Property Crime; Public Policy & Crime; Data Warehouse & Development; Violence Monitoring; and Crime and Society. Recent publications are listed on page 3.

Dr Peter Grabosky was invited to China in December 1996, to give a number of talks on criminal justice and crime prevention to the Chinese People's Public Security University. On his return, he briefed the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Federal Police and the Attorney-General's Department on crime in China.

Among our other external activities: we have provided data to the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence; worked on new issues in education and policing with the Australian Federal Police; prepared a report on Indicators of Aggression for the Commonwealth Minister for Health; prepared materials on the Portrayal of Violence in the Media for the Minister for Communications; organised a conference on juvenile justice in conjunction with the Department of Employment, Education and Youth Affairs; provided advice on Strategic Information Systems to the Australian Securities Commission; briefed the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs on Crime and Ethnic Communities; discussed issues of fraud control with the Health Insurance Commission.

The past 12 months have seen much new material from the AIC, and a great deal of infrastructure building so that we are well-placed to provide better service to our stakeholders.

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Australian Violence Prevention Awards

In 1996, the Australian Violence Prevention Awards attracted a quality field from every State and Territory of this country.

The awards are designed to recognise inventive and effective violence prevention programs. In the Awards' five year history, schemes recognised have included programs dealing with domestic violence, schools-based schemes, Aboriginal anti-violence programs and many others. The AVPA Selection Board, made up of representatives of the States, Territories and Commonwealth, meet once a year to decide on the winners. A pool of approximately \$100,000 is made available each year for the Awards scheme.

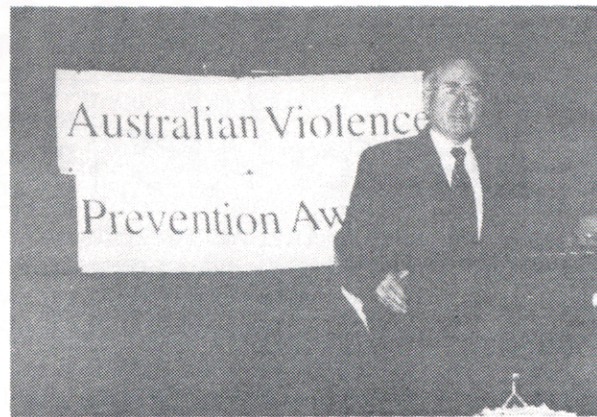
In 1996, the three major winners were The Options Project (A Victorian program to promote non-violent behaviour in schools), the Ask Any Woman video scheme (NSW, linking poor urban design with women's safety) and the Ugly Mugs program (Victoria, sex workers listing dangerous clients).

The Selection Board decided that, in 1996, special awards would be presented to the Prime Minister and to Ministers who comprise the Australasian Police Ministers' Council.

These special awards (non-monetary) recognised the leadership shown by the Prime Minister in the area of firearms control, and the commitment of the other Ministers to making Australia a safer society through firearm regulation. Closing date for the 1997 awards is Friday, May 30. Please contact Kathy Mildren (phone 06 260 9237) for further details.

Data Warehouse

Data warehousing is a relatively recent concept associated with the economical management of information systems. Organisations



The Prime Minister, Mr Howard, accepting his special anti-violence award at Parliament House

from all over the world continue to be attracted by the idea of having efficient data management systems to support strategic planning and decision making processes. The AIC aims at positioning itself as the national leader in the field of criminal justice information and data; a key component of the process of accomplishing its mission of providing accurate criminal justice information for policy advice, and in so doing to move from exploring and describing, to explaining phenomena related to social behaviour and criminal justice.

The Data Warehouse is seen as an essential part in the process of achieving this goal. The Australian Bureau of Statistics was commissioned to conduct a review of data management practices in the AIC and submitted its final report in February 1996.

The data warehouse project for the AIC is being designed to:

- serve the needs of the Institute's research program in the execution of its responsibilities of analysing social behaviour and criminal justice in order to produce policy relevant research outputs;
- support the research activities of the Institute's clients by providing them with access to updated statistical information about the characteristics and operations of criminal justice

systems in Australia and overseas;

○ provide other Institute stakeholders with easy access to statistical information on criminological and other related issues.

Homicide monitoring

The AIC's National Homicide Monitoring Program grew out of the National Committee on Violence report *Violence: Directions for Australia*.

The Report concluded that basic data on national patterns of homicide were not available, and that fundamental information on such policy-relevant issues as weapon use, victim-offender relations, and location of incident, was lacking. With the endorsement of the Australasian Police Ministers, the Institute began collecting homicide data in 1990. Each State and Territory police service now supplies information from its homicide case files on a routine basis. Data on each incident coming to police attention in Australia since 1989 are now in the Institute's homicide data base. These data comprise up to 47 separate variables for each incident, including characteristics of victims, offenders, location, and circumstances of the event. Regular AIC reports will summarise homicide patterns and trends, while special studies will be conducted over the coming year on matters such as firearms use, elderly victims of homicide, and homicides occurring within the family. The homicide monitoring program complements our national firearms monitoring program, established in mid 1996 in the aftermath of the Port Arthur shootings.

AIC publications



he two major series of publications now published by the Australian Institute of Criminology are *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice* and the *Research and Public Policy* series.

This is a listing of titles published in the past 12 months.

Trends and Issues

- 52: *Social Factors in Suicide in Australia*, Riaz Hassan, February 1996
53: *Children as Victims of Homicide*, Heather Strang, March 1996
54: *Stealing Telecommunications Services*, Russell G. Smith, April 1996
55: *The Portrayal of Violence in the Media*, Melanie Brown, June 1996
56: *Superannuation Crime*, Arie Freiberg, June 1996
57: *Paedophilia*, Marianne James, June 1996
58: *Women in Policing*, Vicki Wilkinson & Irene D. Froyland, July 1996
59: *Crime and Telecommunications*, P.N. Grabosky, Russell G. Smith & Paul Wright, August 1996
60: *Intellectual Disability and Criminal Victimisation*, C. Wilson, T. Nettlebeck, R. Potter & C. Perry, September 1996
61: *Violent Crime in Australia: Interpreting the Trends*, David Indermaur, October 1996
62: *Fraud: An Overview of Current & Emerging Risks*, P.N. Grabosky & Russell G. Smith, November 1996
63: *The Future of Crime Control*, P.N. Grabosky, November 1996
64: *Detaining Aboriginal Juveniles as a last resort: Variations from the theme*, Lynn Atkinson, December 1996
65: *Internet Piracy*, Russell G. Smith, January 1997
66: *Insurance Fraud*, Tony Baldock, February 1997
67: *Exploring Motor Vehicle Theft in Australia*, Karl Higgins, February 1997
68: *Reporting Crime to the Police*, Carlos Carcach, March 1997

[Subscriptions to Trends and issues cost \$60 for 15 issues. Contact AIC Publications for further details.]

Research and Public Policy series

Price includes postage and handling

No. 2 *Money Laundering in the 21st Century: Risks and Countermeasures*, edited by Adam Graycar & Peter Grabosky. How can law enforcement agencies combat the complex crime of money laundering? This collection of papers was given at the conference convened by the Australian Institute of Criminology in 1996. ISBN 0 642 24011 6. 60 pp. \$25.00

No. 3 *Violence Prevention in Practice*, compiled by Jane Mugford & Diana Nelson. The Australian Violence Prevention Awards were established in November 1991. These 59 programs cover firearms control, violence against women, anti-bullying, community crime prevention and safety, alcohol-related violence, and Aboriginal justice programs. 1996. ISBN 0 642 24024 8. 84 pp. \$25.00

No. 4 *Violent Deaths and Firearms in Australia: Data and Trends*, by Satyanshu Mukherjee & Carlos Carcach. This publication will assist in the better understanding of the relationship between violent death and the use of firearms in Australia. 1996. ISBN 0 642 24011 6. 96 pp. \$25.00

No. 5 *Protecting Superannuation against Criminal Exploitation*, edited by Adam Graycar. These papers include an overview of superannuation issues in the 1990s, including the perspectives of the police, the regulator, an auditor, a practitioner and the manager of a large superannuation fund. 1996. ISBN 0 642 24023 X. 80 pp. A\$25.00

No. 6 *Violence against Women in Aus-*

tralia: Key Research and Data Issues, Judy Putt & Karl Higgins. The Violence against Women Indicators Project (VAWIP) provides comprehensive information relating to violence against women in Australia. 1997. ISBN 0 642 24031 0. 68 pp. \$25

No. 7 *A Statistical Profile of Crime in Australia*, prepared for the Second National Outlook Symposium March 1997, Satyanshu Mukherjee, Carlos Carcach & Karl Higgins. An understanding of crime, based on statistics from diverse sources, is essential for the development of crime prevention policies and practice. 1997. ISBN 0 642 24033 7. 96 pp. \$29

Books

In a move to make AIC research findings more widely available, some research and conference proceedings will be published by commercial publishers.

A cooperative arrangement with Federation Press will see much AIC research published for a wider audience than was previously the case. Book-length manuscripts resulting either from conferences or research from specific projects are offered to Federation who assess each manuscript as they would work from any author.

The first publication will be titled *Homophobic Violence*, written by Steve Tomsen and Gail Mason who have selected and edited material from the AIC Conference, Violence against Gays and Lesbians. This will be released in March and will retail for \$24.95. The book will be available from the publisher and in good bookstores. This initial publication will be followed in May/June by two other works:

- *Crime and Justice in Australia*, 2nd edition, Satyanshu Mukherjee & Adam Graycar
- *Crime in The Digital Age*, P.N. Grabosky and Russell G. Smith.

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World Wide Web

The Australian Institute of Criminology is expanding its presence on the World Wide Web each month.

The address of the AIC Home Page is <http://www.aic.gov.au>. On this page you are able to check our current conference program, a listing of our researchers, the Institute's publications catalogue, links to the J.V. Barry Library, our latest media releases, selected data and research papers from our Research section.

On our Page, you may check what our latest publications are and how to order them; put a query to our library or to a researcher; find what the AIC is saying about current crime concerns.

Our Page is updated regularly with more news and data from the AIC.

Conference program



realigned Conference program was recently announced by the AIC.

Recognising the need for policy relevant conferences, the Institute has drawn up a program which fits this criterion - if you have access to the World Wide Web, go to <http://www.aic.gov.au> for full details of the 1997 program.

The major meetings for the first half of this year are

Second National Outlook Symposium on Crime in Australia (Canberra, March 3/4)

Paedophilia: Policy and prevention (Sydney, April 14/15)

The Paedophilia conference was initiated following widespread public debate on the issue last year and this.

Privatisation and Public Policy: The Case of Corrections, Melbourne, June 16/17)

Juvenile Crime & Juvenile Justice: Towards 2000 and Beyond (Adelaide, June 26/27).

Other conferences proposed for this year include:

Health Care, Crime and Professional Regulation (Melbourne, July 3/4)

Violence in the Entertainment Media - in conjunction with the Office of Film and Literature Classification (Sydney, December 4/5)

Crime Prevention in Australia - in conjunction with the National Campaign against Violence and Crime (Hobart, February 26/27, 1998)

Non-custodial Sentencing of Offenders: Trends and Issues (Perth, April, 1998).

Alcohol and Crime (Sydney, tba)

Fill in this form for more information on AIC conferences

Name.....

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Special

interests.....

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