

AIC Newsletter

Winter 1997

Australian Institute of Criminology

Institute monitors firearms controls

In 1996, the Australasian Police Ministers' Council (APMC) resolved that the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) "will monitor the effects of the new firearms controls". The Institute will report annually to the APMC.

In order to fulfil this role, the National Firearms Monitoring Program plans to focus on:

- deaths and injuries (homicidal, suicidal and accidental; single and multiple) caused by firearms;
- firearm related offences;
- the number and types of firearms in Australia; and
- the number and demographics of people licensed to possess and use firearms.

Much of the study will involve a pre-intervention/post-intervention comparison. It will be some years before sufficient post-implementation data become available, enabling us to draw conclusions on the impacts of the initiatives. This means that the reports on the first two or three years of implementation will be mostly descriptive. It also emphasises the importance of developing data sets containing pre-1996 data, particularly covering firearm and non-firearm homicides, suicides and accidental death, other firearm-related offences, registered weapons and the number and demographics of licensed shooters in Australia.



The home of the Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra

In order to obtain complete and accurate information for the monitoring program, the Institute will be working cooperatively with the police authorities from each jurisdiction and other leading providers of information and statistics, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the National Injury Surveillance Unit (NISU) of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the Australian Customs Service.

Late news:

New Trends and Issues paper on firearms and violence.

For ordering details, see page 3.

Sophisticated

crime

Dr Peter Grabosky, Director of Research, and Dr Russell Smith, Research Analyst, of the Sophisticated Crime Group at the AIC, have recently published several research papers, which deal with telecommunications and crime, and commercial and business fraud.

Their book, *Crime in the Digital Age: Controlling Telecommunications and Cyberspace Illegalities*, written with the assistance of Paul Wright (researcher with the Western Australia Police Service), will be published by Federation Press in the second half of 1997.

Other papers arising out of the research project, funded in part by the Telstra Fund for Social and Policy Research in Telecommunications, which are to appear shortly, include Smith and Grabosky's article in the *British Journal of Criminology*, "Prevention of telecommunications fraud"; Grabosky and Smith's article in *Law and Policy*, "Telecommunications and crime: Regulatory dilemmas"; and Smith's articles in the *Security Journal*, "Preventing mobile telephone crime", and in the *Medico-Legal Journal*, entitled "Medicine, crime and unprofessional conduct in the on-line world".

Global Violence

Dr Satyanshu Mukherjee is preparing a paper on violence and violence prevention for the United Nations. This paper will review global trends in violence between 1945 and 1995, and crime prevention measures designed to control it. Trends in homicide and the influence of conflicts, inter and intra-State, on violence will be examined. Fear of crime and the methods to combat violent crime (e.g. gun control) will be explored.

Board names four new Associates

For almost 25 years the Australian Institute of Criminology has been an academic leader in criminology both within Australia and internationally. During 1995, the Institute was refocussed to concentrate its efforts on policy research.

To ensure continuity of its longstanding research activities and to maintain strong links with the academic community, the Institute has developed an Associates scheme, appointing a number of leading academics as Associates of the Institute. The Associates will represent the interests of the Australian Institute of Criminology in their home city and, where appropriate, work jointly with the Institute to further the activities of the AIC in that city. Appointment will be for two years and will be conditional on Associates contributing tangibly to the AIC program or product. This

contribution will be negotiated with the Director.

The four new recently appointed Associates are:

- Associate Professor Kathy Daly, School of Justice Administration, Griffith University;
- David McDonald, consultant in social research and PhD candidate with the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University;
- Professor Ken Polk, Reader in Criminology, University of Melbourne
- Professor Tony Vinson, recently retired Professor of Sociology, University of New South Wales, Foundation Director NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, former Chair NSW Corrective Services Commission and currently Director of Research, UNIYA Jesuit Social Justice Centre.

Homicide Monitoring: 7 years of data

With seven years of information now on the database, the National Homicide Monitoring Program at the AIC is in a unique position to provide a national profile of all homicides in Australia as well as distinct characteristics of sub-categories such as homicides between intimate partners, homicides between friends and acquaintances, and stranger homicides. Trends and patterns associated with the characteristics of individuals which place them at risk of homicide victimisation and offending, and the circumstances which contribute to the likelihood of a homicide occurring can now also be analysed. These data will be published in the Research and Public Policy series later this year.

ROLE project for AIC

Funding has been made available to the Institute by the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs to investigate the benefits of open learning-style education for Indigenous offenders and to assess the impact on repeat offending.

The project responds to recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody regarding education and training needs of Indigenous offenders.

This is a two-year project, scheduled for completion in 1999.

New items on AIC list

Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice Series

The two latest issues in the Trends and Issues series are as follows:

No. 69: *Telemedicine & Crime*, Russell Smith, April 1997.

This paper outlines some of the potential areas of risk which face medical practitioners who make use of on-line services in terms of their criminal and professional liability, and their vulnerability to victimisation. Various strategies are reviewed which seek to prevent and to control such forms of illegality.

No. 70: *Firearms Related Violence in Australia*, Satyanshu Mukherjee, May 1997.

This paper identifies the use of firearms in the context of all violent deaths in Australia over the last ten years, the relative place of firearms as the means of suicide and homicide, and the difficulties of assessing the impact of firearm control on the level of violence. It concludes with an identification of means to overcome these difficulties.

Subscription price to Trends & Issues is A\$60.00 for 15 papers. Single copies are A\$5.00 each. Back issues are available. Contact AIC Publications for further details:

E-mail: aicpress@aic.gov.au
or

phone: 06 260 9256.

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Research and Public Policy Series

No. 8, *Indicators of Aggressive Behaviour*, prepared by David McDonald & Melanie Brown.

At the request of the Minister for Health and Family Services, Dr Michael Woodridge, this report was prepared by an Expert Working Group examining the current evidence concerning the links between aggressive and self-harmful behaviour and a range of health, social and legal factors. It contains recommendations, where appropriate, for strategic policy responses.
1997. ISBN 0 642 24036 1. 40 pp.
A\$15.00

Three new titles in the series will be published in June. They are:

No. 9, *National Police Custody Survey: August 1995*, by Carlos Carcach & David McDonald.

No. 10, *Australian Deaths in Custody & Custody-related Police Operations 1996*, by Vicki Dalton.

No. 11, *Juvenile Crime and Justice: Australia 1997*, by Satyanshu Mukherjee, Carlos Carcach & Karl Higgins.

Books

The first book published under the arrangement between the AIC and Federation Press appeared in April. *Homophobic Violence*, edited by Gail Mason & Stephen Tomsen, is based on papers presented at the First National Conference on Violence Against Gays and Lesbians, organised by the Institute and held in Sydney on 27 and 28 October 1995.

The common thread running through the book is not just the problem of violence, but the concept of homophobia — the disapproval of homosexual

preferences and an animosity to homosexual identities, politics and lifestyles.

There are chapters on the differential impact of harassment and violence on young people, on gay men and on lesbians; on police responses to this violence in South Australia and New South Wales; on the constructed deviant status of homosexual homicide victims; on criminology's description of lesbians and gay men as deviants marked out from heterosexuals; on HIV-related violence and its impact on victims; and a detailed analysis of the relevant law throughout Australia.

Note: Copies may be purchased through the publisher only, not the Institute.

ISBN 1876067047. 160 pp.
Recommended retail price
A\$25.00. Cheque with order
price: A\$23.00.
Contact:

The Federation Press,
PO Box 45,
Annandale NSW 2038
Tel: +61 2 9552 2200
Fax: +61 2 9552 1681.

Federation Press will be publishing two new titles for the Australian Institute of Criminology later this year: *Crime and Justice in Australia*, 2nd edn, by Satyanshu Mukherjee & Adam Graycar; *Crime in the Digital Age*, by P.N. Grabosky & Russell G. Smith.

Electronic

CD-ROM

Crime and Justice in Australia 1996, the first in a five CD-ROM set entitled Australian Crime and Justice on CD-ROM, was published in May.

Each CD-ROM will include the scanned image of a range of publications from the AIC as well as other criminal justice publishers. The CDs are designed to improve access to the full text of Australian criminal justice publications and documents, and to increase the awareness and use of information produced by major Australian criminal justice agencies and publishers.

For further details and orders, contact:

Informit Electronic Publishing
& Training
PO Box 12477
A'Beckett Street
Melbourne 8006.

DISKS

Two sets of disks were made available in April. Papers from the "Second National Outlook Symposium: Violent Crime, Property Crime and Public Policy" (held March 1997) and the conference "Paedophilia: Policy & Prevention" (held April 1997) are now available on 3.5" disk in Adobe® Acrobat® format for A\$25.00. These can be purchased through Bibliotech (see below).

Publication orders

Order

Research and Public Policy series; disks; and all AIC backlist titles

from: Bibliotech
ANUTECH PTY LTD
GPO Box 4
Canberra ACT 2601

E-mail:
Jenny.Morris@aplemail.anu.edu.au

Trends & Issues in Crime & Criminal Justice

from: AIC Publications
PO Box 2944
Canberra ACT 2601

E-mail:
aicpress@aic.gov.au
Fax: +61 (06) 260 9201

Seminars and conferences

AIC OCCASIONAL SEMINARS in 1996 included:

"Reporting Crime to the Police",
given by Carlos Carcach,
AIC Research Analyst;

"Telemedicine and Crime", by
Dr Russell G. Smith,
AIC Research Analyst;

"Firearm-related Violence", by
Dr Satyanshu Mukherjee
AIC Principal Criminologist.

Earlier this year, Professor
Richard Catalano of the
University of Washington,
Seattle, spoke on "Empowering
Communities in Crime
Prevention". A paper in the
Trends and Issues series will
also be published on this topic.

CONFERENCES: Australian
Institute of Criminology
conferences confirmed:

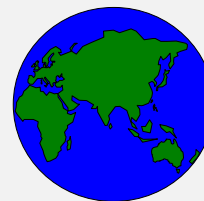
Juvenile Crime & Juvenile
Justice: Towards 2000 & Beyond
26 & 27 June 1997, Adelaide

Health Care, Crime &
Regulatory Control
3 & 4 July 1997, Melbourne

Violence, Crime and the
Entertainment Media (in
conjunction with the Office of
Film & Literature Classification).
4 & 5 December 1997, Sydney

Crime Prevention: Strategic
Approaches (in conjunction with
the National Campaign Against
Violence and Crime)
26 & 27 February 1998, Hobart

*For more information about these
conferences, please return coupon
below.*



**AIC
ON
THE
WEB**

The Institute's Home Page
continues to expand. The
following features have been
added, or further developed,
over the past three months:

- Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice: Two samples of this series are currently available, one as a full text document, and the other in pdf (Adobe® Acrobat®) format
- An extract adapted from the Institute publication: *Violent Deaths and Firearms in Australia: Data & Trends* by Satyanshu Mukherjee and Carlos Carcach (Research and Public Policy No. 4)
- More detailed information about Institute conferences
- More statistics
- Links to related sites.

Find us at:

<http://www.aic.gov.au>

Fill in this form for more information about AIC conferences

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

E-mail.....

Special interests.....

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E-mail inquiries to:
conference@aic.gov.au

or mail/fax this form to:
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PO Box 2944
Canberra ACT 2601
fax: 06 260 9201

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