

AIC Newsletter

Summer 1998

Australian Institute of Criminology

Four outstanding projects were awarded a total of \$50 000 by Federal Minister for Justice, Senator Amanda Vanstone, at the sixth Australian Violence Prevention Awards in Canberra on 23 October. The awards are sponsored by the Heads of Australian Governments as a joint Commonwealth, State and Territory initiative. They are designed to reward the most outstanding projects for the prevention or reduction of violence in Australia, to encourage public initiatives and to assist governments in identifying and developing practical projects which will reduce violence in the community.

Senator Vanstone commended all winners for their work in violence prevention. "Your efforts are a notable contribution to the collective effort being made by governments, law enforcement agencies and organisations to help make Australia a safer place."

The Positive Parenting Program from Queensland was the overall national winner, receiving \$20 000 and a Certificate of Merit. The program aims to prevent serious behaviour or adjustment

New Minister presents Violence Prevention Awards

problems in children by teaching parents of pre-adolescent children alternatives to harsh, inconsistent and coercive discipline practices. Parents are taught strategies for building positive relationships with their children using assertive discipline, supporting their partner and dealing with negative moods and solving problems.

Three other national winners received \$10 000 each and Certificates of Merit: The Family C.A.R.E. Project of Queensland is a trial of home-based nursing services provided to identified vulnerable families. The group targets victims of domestic violence and consists of a series of

home visits by a child health nurse over two years.

The Preventing Workplace Violence project of Victoria, initiated by Job Watch, provides employees who experience violence at work with a mechanism for reporting and redress.

Feel Safe is a preventative social skills training program, designed to enable adults and older adolescents with impaired cognitive abilities and poor receptive language to develop skills to help deal with situations that are unsafe or potentially abusive or dangerous.

Nineteen other projects were awarded \$2 000 each and Certificates of Merit. Full details of all winners can be found on the Institute's home page [<http://www.aic.gov.au/>].



Dr Ken Armstrong, Family C.A.R.E. Project, Queensland; Senator The Hon. Amanda Vanstone, Minister for Justice; and Dr Adam Graycar, Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology

Homicide: new data released

Homicide in Australia 1898-96, by Marianne James and Carlos Carcach, was launched on 17 November 1997 (see AIC Publications on page 3). The report analyses the characteristics of 2226 homicide incidents as well as the characteristics of victims and offenders. The analysis reveals that homicide is much more likely to occur as a result of a situation involving conflict which has escalated out of control with people known to each other, rather than to be a random event which involves strangers. The incidence of homicide as well as the factors associated with its occurrence have a pattern that is consistent over the period under study. Any initiatives aimed at reducing homicide must therefore be part of long-term, integrated strategies. In addition, the importance of programs such as the Australian Violence Prevention Award cannot be over-emphasised.

inside...

Trends since the Royal Commission
AIC Publications
Seminars, roundtables & conferences

page 2
page 3
page 4

Farewell to Dr Grabosky

Dr Peter Grabosky, whose association with the AIC commenced in 1979 when he represented South Australia on the Board of the Institute, leaves the AIC at the end of 1997 after 14 years as a member of staff, the last few as Director of Research. Dr Grabosky has been appointed head of the International Division at the National Institute of Justice, Washington. Dr Grabosky's wide-ranging career at the Institute is reflected in his many publications, and his extra mural activities have included representation on numerous significant Australian and overseas committees. Dr Grabosky's expert advice has been widely sought and he has made a major contribution to Australian criminological research. The AIC wishes him well in this significant new appointment.

Welcome to Dr Toni Makkai

In early September, Dr Toni Makkai joined the staff of the AIC Research Program. Dr Makkai's work will be in drugs policy, in which she has had considerable experience and numerous publications. After taking her PhD in Sociology from the University of Queensland in 1989, Dr Makkai held several senior appointments, including Senior Research Fellow, Sociology Program, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University (1994-95), Visiting Fellow, Centre for the Study of Public Policy, University of Strathclyde (1995), and Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Salford (1995-97).

International connections . . .

In early October, the Director, Dr Adam Graycar, visited the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) in Washington. This Institute undertakes criminological research and, like the AIC, works in such areas as violence, drugs and crime; and crime control. The NIJ Director, Jeremy Travis, will be visiting the AIC when he is in Australia in February 1998.

The Institute's Principal Librarian, John Myrtle, recently attended the fourth

meeting of the World Criminal Justice Library Network which was held in Washington DC from 19 to 21 October. The meeting was sponsored by the National Institute of Justice. The theme of the meeting was "Governments as providers of criminal information". It was attended by more than thirty chief librarians from Australia, New Zealand, North American and Europe.

The highlights of the week were two library tours; one to the Library of Congress and the other to the FBI Training Academy at Quantico, Virginia.

Deaths in custody: Trends since the Royal Commission

Ms Vicki Dalton, AIC Research Analyst, delivered a paper entitled "The Monitoring of Deaths in Custody at the Australian Institute of Criminology: Trends Since the Royal Commission" at the Deaths in Custody Conference/Workshop on "Reversing the Cycle" hosted by the Queensland Aboriginal & Islander Legal Services Secretariat (QAILSS) at Broadbeach, Queensland from 23-25 September 1997.

The paper focused on two areas: firstly, the role of the Australian Institute of Criminology in monitoring deaths in custody and, secondly, provided an overview of all deaths in custody in the 6 years since the tabling of the Royal Commission's Final National Report in 1991.

The paper highlighted that the number of deaths (97) during the 1996-97 financial year period was the highest number reported over the last 17 years. It was also noted that the 17 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths during the year were a reflection of the increasing upward trend of Indigenous deaths occurring in police and prison custody emerging in recent years. It was stressed that the major area of concern is the high number of Aboriginal deaths occurring in the course of custody-related police operations, specifically the large number occurring in the course of, or immediately following, police pursuits.

Also emphasised was the substantial reduction in the number of deaths (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) in police "institutional" settings (specifically lockups), highlighting this as a notable achievement on the part of Australia's police services in their successful attempts to implement many of the Recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

A copy of the paper can be found at the AIC's web site: <http://www.aic.gov.au>.

AIC Publications

Research and Public Policy series

Since June the following titles have been published in the Research and Public Policy series:

No. 13: *Homicide in Australia 1989-96*, by Marianne James & Carlos Carcach, 1997. ISBN 0 642 24050 7. 64 pp. A\$20.00.

No. 12: *Paedophilia: Policy and Prevention*, edited by Marianne James. 1997. ISBN 0 642 24047 7. 96 pp. A\$20.00.

No. 11: *Juvenile Crime and Justice: Australia 1997*, by Satyanshu Mukherjee, Carlos Carcach & Karl Higgins. 1997. ISBN 0 642 24044 2. 96 pp. A\$25.00.

No. 10: *Australian Deaths in Custody & Custody-Related Police Operations 1996*, by Vicki Dalton. 1997. ISBN 0 642 24041 8. 76 pp. A\$15.00.

No. 9: *National Police Custody Survey*, by Carlos Carcach & David McDonald. 1997. ISBN 0 642 24038 8. 64 pp. A\$25.00.

RPP titles due late 1997 or early 1998 include:

"Juvenile Crime & Juvenile Justice: Toward 2000 and Beyond", edited by Christine Alder

"Repeat Victimisation in Australia: Extent, Correlates and Implications for Crime Prevention", Satyanshu Mukherjee & Carlos Carcach

"Women Deaths in Custody: Australia", Vicki Dalton

All titles in the Research and Public Policy series are available from our agents, Bibliotech (see box on this page).

Trends and Issues series

Papers in the Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice Series are available on subscription of

\$60 for 15 papers. Contact AIC Publications for subscription information. Recent papers are as follows:

No. 74: *Measuring the Extent of Fraud in Australia*, Russell G. Smith

No. 73: *Youth as Victims and Offenders of Homicide*, Carlos Carcach

No. 72: *Estimates of the Cost of Crime in Australia in 1996*, John Walker

No. 71: *Plastic Card Fraud*, Russell G. Smith

No. 70: *Firearm-Related Violence in Australia*, Satyanshu Mukherjee

No. 69: *Telemedicine & Crime*, Russell G. Smith

Books

Federation Press are publishing a further two books emanating from AIC research:

Crime and Justice in Australia 1997, Satyanshu Mukherjee & Adam Graycar, PB ISBN 187606708X, 128 pp. \$29.95 (available November 1997).

Crime in the Digital Age, P.N. Grabosky & Russell G. Smith, HB, ISBN 1862872694, 256 pp. \$60, PB ISBN 18612872708,

256 pp. \$40 (available February 1998).

These two books are available *only* from:

The Federation Press
PO Box 45
Annandale NSW 2038
Tel: 61 2 9552 2200
Fax: 61 2 9552 1681
email: fedpress@ozemail.com.au

Electronic

DISKS

Unedited papers from the following conferences are now available on 3.5" disk in Acrobat Adobe format for \$25 per set:

Privatisation and Public Policy: A Correctional Case Study

Juvenile Crime & Juvenile Justice: Toward 2000 and Beyond

First Australasian Women Police Conference

Paedophilia: Policy and Prevention

Deaths in Custody Bibliography, edited by Vicki Dalton (ISBN 0 642 24051 5) is also available in Microsoft Word for Windows on disk. This bibliography covers selected literature on deaths in custody for the period 1970 to 1996. The disk costs \$10 (postage and handling included) from Bibliotech. The full bibliography is also available on the AIC home page: <http://www.aic.gov.au/services/biblio/index.html>.

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
Fax: +61 (02) 6257 5088

Trends & Issues in Crime & Criminal Justice

from: AIC Publications
GPO Box 2944
Canberra ACT 2601

E-mail:
aicpress@aic.gov.au
Fax: +61 (02) 6260 9201

Seminars, roundtables & conferences



Additional AIC
OCCASIONAL
SEMINARS held in
1997 were as follows:

"The Kowanyama Aboriginal Community Justice Group", Paul Chantrill (Centre for Research in Aboriginal & Multicultural Studies, University of New England);

"Policing, Domestic Violence and Culturally Diverse Populations", Christine Jennett (Charles Sturt University, Professional Development Centre, NSW Police Academy);

"Multiple Victimisation & Fear of Crime", Satyanshu Mukherjee and Carlos Carcach

The first seminar in 1998 will be given by Dr Carol A.G. Jones, Senior Lecturer, University of Hong Kong, currently Research Fellow, Law Program, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University.

These seminars are noted on the AIC web page
[<http://www.aic.gov.au/>]
and posted on CrimNet.

A new venture is a series of ROUNDTABLE meetings to which a group of eminent researchers and/or practitioners in a particular field are invited. Commencing in late October, five have been held to date:

- Gambling, Technology & Society: Regulatory Challenges for the 21st Century
- The Use of Geographical Information Systems in Crime Mapping and the Criminal Justice System
- Sentencing of Aboriginal Offenders
- Paedophilia, Child Pornography & Law Enforcement

- Child Abuse and Later Criminal Behaviour

A summary of these one-day meetings will be published either in the Trends and Issues or Research and Public Policy Series.

A further two meetings are scheduled for early December, with plans for a further three in the new year.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES:

1997

Violence, Crime and the Entertainment Media (in conjunction with the Office of Film and Literature Classification):
4-5 December 1997, Swiss Grand Hotel, Bondi

1998

Internet Crime:

16-17 February 1998, to be held at University of Melbourne.

Partnerships in Crime Prevention:

25-27 February 1998, to be held at Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart.

Crime Against Business:
May 1998, Melbourne

For further details and registrations contact:

Conference@aic.gov.au,
Glenys Roussell (02) 6260 9229 or
conference@netinfo.com.au,
Linda Hensche (02) 6292 9000.

**Third National Outlook
Symposium on
Crime in Australia,
24-25 March 1999,
Canberra**

**Draft program is in
preparation.**

**Further details in the next
AIC newsletter.**

AIC Visitors

1997 has seen a number of long-term and short-term visitors to the Institute. Longest serving is Dr Sungho Noh who started his visit in February for a 12-month period. A member of staff with the Korean Institute of Criminology, Dr Sungho Noh's area of specialisation is juvenile crime and justice.

In March and April two students from the Australian National Internships Program, Emma Elsworth and Jenna Rotter, worked within the Institute.

In the second half of 1997, Rasa Gruzauskas, an officer with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, worked at the AIC on fear of crime for a master's thesis from the University of New England. In late November, Elizabeth King, an ANU Law Faculty intern, will join us for several months.

Simon Bronitt, an AIC Associate, is spending his study leave from the Law School, Australian National University, at the Institute and is working on research into electronic surveillance. In 1998, he will be conducting a roundtable on the issues surrounding private sector surveillance.

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