

# AIC Newsletter

Autumn 1998

Australian Institute of Criminology

## Partnerships in Crime Prevention



*Jeremy Travis, Director of the National Institute of Justice, Washington (left), and Adam Graycar, Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology (right), at the Partnerships in Crime Prevention Conference in Hobart.*

**T**he AIC's National Outlook Symposium on Crime in Australia is held every second year. The AIC conducts other major conferences between Symposiums, and Partnerships in Crime Prevention, a joint initiative of the AIC and the National Campaign Against Violence and Crime, was held from 25 to 27 February 1998 in Hobart. The conference brought together people interested in encouraging the involvement of the whole community in the development of strategies to prevent crime and to reduce the fear of crime. The conference attracted more than 300 delegates.

Senator Amanda Vanstone, the Federal Minister for Justice and the Hon. Ray Groom MHA, Attorney-General from Tasmania, jointly opened the conference.

Conference themes for individual sessions concerned developmental and situational crime prevention, local government, Aboriginal issues, corrections, policing violence against women and early intervention. Excellent presentations demonstrated the benefits to be gained in community crime prevention when effective partnership strategies including a variety of agencies are employed. However, the need for good in-depth research to underpin both policy and practice, as well as the importance of undertaking rigorous evaluation, was emphasised by both Jeremy Travis, the Director of the National Institute of Justice in Washington, and Professor Ross Homel, of the Centre for Crime Policy and Research, Griffith University, Queensland, an AIC Associate.

## National Illicit Drugs Strategy: new project

As part of the National Illicit Drugs Strategy, the Prime Minister has announced that Part 2 of the Strategy will include an amount of \$1.62 million (over 3 years) to be granted to the AIC to conduct the I-ADAM (International Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring) project. This project has been in operation in the USA for several years and the National Institute of Justice is expanding the project to develop international comparisons. The benefits for Australian law enforcement are that it will:

- enhance Australia's knowledge base on drugs and crime and the link between them;
- provide early warning on usage patterns and changes in those patterns;
- link into a comparative international data set; and
- provide advice to law enforcement agencies.

The AIC's role will be in managing and adding value to the data.

A preliminary workshop to be held in Miami on 7-8 April 1998 will be attended by Dr Toni Makkai of the AIC together with two Australian police officers.

### Directory of Criminal Justice Researchers on the AIC home page

The AIC has established an online directory of Australian researchers in criminology and related fields. Researchers are listed by a variety of keywords and topics. The AIC wishes to include as many Australian researchers as possible working in criminology and related fields. To be included, visit the AIC web site at <http://www.aic.gov.au> and email the online form, or email [Front.Desk@aic.gov.au](mailto:Front.Desk@aic.gov.au).

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# Ethnicity and Crime

**T**he Department of Immigration has asked the AIC to prepare a concept paper on ethnicity and crime. The terms of reference for the concept paper include:

- a statement on the issues involved in understanding the relationship between ethnicity and criminality, noting where there are possible differences between traditional crimes such as homicide, assaults, and property crimes on the one hand, and organised crime on the other;
- a brief summary of the type, quality and content of research on the subject in Australia and overseas;
- a discussion of the specific statistical information currently available in Australia and an analysis of same to understand the value of such statistics and their inadequacies; and
- a statement on what needs to be done and what can be done in the near future to advance our knowledge on the subject.

Dr Satyanshu Mukherjee is leading the research project. Prior to publication of the report, the AIC will hold a roundtable seminar.

## US National Institute Director visits AIC

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) performs, in the American Government context, a role similar to that of the AIC. The Directors of the two organisations are working together to establish collaborative projects and information exchanges. AIC Director, Adam Graycar, visited NIJ in Washington last October, and NIJ Director, Jeremy Travis visited the AIC in February this year. Jeremy Travis spent two days at the AIC offices in Canberra, where he gave a staff seminar and worked on the development of the I-ADAM Project (see p. 1). Following this, Jeremy Travis attended the Partnerships in Crime Prevention Conference in Hobart, where he gave a keynote address (see p. 1).

## AIC leads the way on high-tech crime

On 16-17 February in Melbourne, the AIC convened a conference on Internet Crime, attended by 100 experts from around Australia and New Zealand. Speakers included Norman Reaburn, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, who gave the Keynote Address, Peter Grabosky and Russell Smith of the Australian Institute of Criminology; Ken Day and Glenn Wahlert of the Australian Federal Police; and Kaaren Koomen of the Australian Broadcasting Authority. The conference discussed further developments in cyberspace illegality and its control, including methods employed by New Zealand authorities to investigate criminal pedophile activity on the Internet.

## AIC Staff

Pamela Kinnear, who has just successfully completed her PhD at the Australian National University, and Honours graduates, Anna Grant (Queensland University of Technology), and Bree Cook (Australian National University) have recently joined the AIC as Research Analysts.

## Prison Deaths in Custody 1997: the highest on record

The release of the AIC's Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice report, no. 81, *Prison Deaths 1980-97 National Overview and State Trends*, by Vicki Dalton, received national coverage when it was used as the basis of background research on prison custody for the ABC's "Four Corners" program of 30 March. The report reveals that the number of prisoners dying in custody has increased markedly: in 1997, 75 people died in prison custody, compared with 52 in 1996. A major finding of this important, ongoing AIC research, is that the number of non-Indigenous deaths in custody has increased significantly, and, in addition, Indigenous prisoners continue to be over-represented in Australia's prison population.

## Dr Mukherjee attends UN Expert Group Meeting

**T**he AIC was invited to participate in an Expert Group Meeting in The Netherlands from 17-21 March 1998 as part of the UN initiative in the development of crime statistics. Among other things, the Group discussed *The Global Report on Crime and Justice*—a book edited by Graeme Newman, which includes a chapter by Dr Sat Mukherjee (written in conjunction with Phil Williams of the University of Pittsburgh) entitled "Bringing to Justice". The chapter describes and analyses data from the United Nations Crime Surveys on Crime Trends. Dr Mukherjee attended the meeting which was hosted by the governments of Argentina and The Netherlands.

Dr Mukherjee has also prepared a report for the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention entitled "Trends in violence and crime prevention strategies in the world".

# AIC Publications

## Research and Public Policy series

**T**he following new titles have been published in the Research and Public Policy series (ISSN 1326-6004):

No. 15 *Repeat Victimisation in Australia: Extent, Correlates and Implications for Crime Prevention*, by Satyanshu Mukherjee & Carlos Carcach, 1998. ISBN 0 642 24057 4. 52 pp. A\$20.00.

No. 14: *Juvenile Crime and Juvenile Justice: Towards 2000 and Beyond*, edited by Christine Alder, 1998. ISBN 0 642 24053 1. 90 pp. A\$20.00.

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 (ISSN 0817-8542) are available on subscription of \$60 for 15 papers. Contact AIC Publications for subscription information.

Between January and March 1998 the following were published:

No. 83: *Crime in a Shrinking World*, P.N. Grabosky

No. 82: *Murder-Suicide in Australia*, Carlos Carcach & P.N. Grabosky

No. 81: *Prison Deaths 1980-97, National Overview and State Trends*, Vicki Dalton

No. 80: *Australian Deaths in Custody and Custody-related Police Operations, 1997*, Vicki Dalton

No. 79: *Regulating Racial Hatred*, Sally Frances Reid & Russell G. Smith

No. 78: *Technology & Crime Control*, Peter Grabosky

No. 77: *Alcohol & Disorder in the Australian Community: Part II—Perpetrators*, Toni Makkai

## Books

Federation Press is publishing a new book emanating from a recent AIC conference:

*Health Care Crime*, edited by Russell G. Smith (available approximately June 1998).

This book will be 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

Recent Federation Press publications arising from AIC work are:

*Crime in the Digital Age* by Peter Grabosky & Russell G. Smith, 1998;

*Crime and Justice in Australia 1997* by Satyanshu Mukherjee & Adam Graycar, 1997;

*Homophobic Violence*, edited by Gail Mason & Stephen Tomsen, 1997.

## Electronic

Unedited papers from the following conferences will soon be available on the AIC web page:

*Violence, Crime and the Entertainment media*

*Internet Crime*

*Partnerships in Crime Prevention*

## Australian Crime and Justice on CD-ROM

The second CD-ROM in the series, Australian Crime and Justice on CD-ROM, was released in January 1998 and launched by the Minister for Justice, the Hon. Amanda Vanstone, at a function at Parliament House on 13 February. The CD, *Australian Institute of Criminology on CD-ROM* has three components:

- *Crime and Justice in Australia*
- *A Statistical Profile of Crime in Australia*
- the full text of papers presented at two National Outlook Symposia on Crime in Australia organised by the AIC in 1995 and 1997.

Forthcoming titles in the series will be:

- Crime and Violence Prevention
- Corporate and White Collar Crime
- Crime and Justice in Australia 1998

Purchase inquiries should be directed to:

RMIT Publishing  
PO Box 12477  
A'Beckett Street  
Melbourne Vic. 8006.

Subscriptions:

(03) 9341 3285; fax (03) 9349 4583  
email: jackiek@rmitpublishing.com.au

## 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

Email:

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

Email:

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

## Seminars, roundtables & conferences

**O**n 27 November 1997, Mr Philip Alpers, New Zealand firearms researcher, addressed the AIC on global firearms issues.

In February 1998, Jeremy Travis, Director of the National Institute of Justice, Washington spoke about the work of the NIJ (*see p.2*).

Dr Carol A.G. Jones, Research Fellow, Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong gave a seminar on 3 March 1998. Dr Jones spoke about Trends in Crime and Criminal Justice in the People's Republic of China.

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

### ROUNDTABLES and Other Meetings:

Roundtables on the following topics were held during March 1998:

- Youth Unemployment and Crime, held in Sydney, and
- Surveillance: Private and Public Interests, held in Canberra.

From the roundtables held late last year, a report will appear mid-year in the Research and Public Policy series, entitled "Sentencing and Indigenous Peoples".

As part of its national role, the AIC hosted a meeting of Directors of State Bureaux of criminal justice data and research in February, and in March held a similar meeting for corrections researchers.

### CONFERENCES:

The last conference for 1997, Violence, Crime and the Entertainment Media (held in conjunction with the Office of Film and

Literature Classification) was held in Sydney on 4-5 December. International speakers from Britain, Sweden and the United States complemented Australian politicians, researchers, police and members of the film industry. The papers from the conference are available on the Institute's home page (<http://www.aic.gov.au>). *See* reports elsewhere in this newsletter on the conferences held earlier this year: Internet Crime (held in Melbourne) and Partnerships in Crime Prevention (held in Hobart).

### FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES:

1998

Gambling, Technology & Society: Regulatory Challenges for the 21st Century (in conjunction with the Australian Institute for Gambling Research)

7-8 May, Sydney

Crime Against Business:

18-19 June, Melbourne

Urban Design, Community Safety & Crime (in conjunction with the Victorian Community Council Against Violence)

10-11 September, Melbourne

1999

Third National Outlook Symposium on Crime in Australia: Mapping the Boundaries of Australia's Criminal Justice System

22-23 March 1999, Canberra

This symposium will showcase national research on crime and justice in Australia, as well as assembling Government Ministers (both federal and state), leading policy makers, academics, police commissioners and practitioners in crime prevention.

For further details, contact:

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tel: (02) 6292 9000.

## AIC Visitors

For over 10 years, Professor John Hudzik has been bringing criminal justice students from Michigan State University to Australia. Part of their visit includes lectures from Institute staff. As in previous years, Dr Peter Grabosky, Research Director, organised a series of lectures for these students in which several AIC staff members participated.

In January, 17 students from Washburn State University, Kansas visited the Institute for an informal lecture by Dr Adam Graycar, Director, and also visited the JV Barry Library as part of their Australian tour.

Summer is the traditional time when the AIC sees many local students working within the organisation. This year there were two interns from the Law Program at ANU: Elizabeth King who worked on a paper on Tissue Transplantation Crime; and Rachael James whose research studied why people from non-English speaking backgrounds fail to report criminal activity more readily.

In addition, five other students worked on short contracts on various projects: Pamela Kinnear (*see p. 2*), Simon Leveritt, Heike Platen, Rebecca Stringer and Heather Brook.

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#### Conferences:

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