

AIC Newsletter

Winter 2000

Australian Institute of Criminology



AIC's work recognised and rewarded

Collaborating Centre status with NDRI awarded to AIC

The Australian Institute of Criminology has always sought collaborative links with colleagues conducting research.

In particular, the AIC has established a good collaborative arrangement with the National Drug Research Institute, (NDRI) at Curtin University of Technology.

Work under this arrangement has produced important new data on the relationship between drug use and criminal activity.

In July, the NDRI presented the AIC a plaque acknowledging this collaborative work, particularly on the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) project.



National Drug Research Institute Deputy Director, Professor Wendy Loxley, presenting a plaque to AIC Director, Dr Adam Graycar.



L-R: Dr Adam Graycar, AIC Director; Ivan Kolarik, National Police Ethnic Advisory Bureau Executive Director; and John Myrtle, AIC Principal Librarian.

NPEAB recognises AIC's professionalism and commitment

In July, Ivan Kolarik, Executive Director of the National Police Ethnic Advisory Bureau, presented a plaque to the AIC for its professionalism and commitment to the development of the NPEAB website.

Mr Hass Dellal, Executive Director of the Australian Multicultural Foundation; Chief Inspector Rod Norman of the Victoria Police Youth Advisory Unit; and AIC staff attended the presentation.

Recognising the importance of NPEAB's work, the AIC has agreed to co-host a conference with NPEAB on Immigrant Communities and the Criminal Justice System.

The NPEAB website is at www.npeab.gov.au

AIC to host leading social science site

One of the world's leading collections of evidence-based criminology will soon be available on a website hosted by the AIC.

The AIC has agreed to host the site of the Campbell Collaboration's new Crime and Justice Steering Group.

The Campbell Collaboration is the social science counterpart to the Cochrane Collaboration (Medical and Health Sciences). Its role is to promote evidence-based practice and focus on and communicate evidence-based research.

The website will contain the research evidence for successful crime reduction programs that have been evaluated.

"The choice of the AIC to host the crime and justice site is a tremendous recognition of our work in research development and dissemination, and reflects the wide international reach and credibility of our website", AIC Director, Dr Adam Graycar said.

"Not only will the site build a bridge between social science and public policy, but it will also allow social

scientists to expand their methodological skills by working through evaluative techniques", Dr Graycar said.

The Campbell Collaboration was named in honour of the late American psychologist Donald Campbell. It will prepare, update and disseminate systematic reviews of high-quality evidence on the effects of social and educational interventions.

For more information about the Collaboration go to <http://campbell.gse.upenn.edu>.

inside this issue...

What counts is what works
Publications and Conferences
Roundtables

page 2
page 3
page 4

Former AIC Director appointed Inspector of Custodial Services, WA

Professor Richard Harding, AIC Director from 1984 to 1987, has resigned as Director of the Crime Research Centre, University of Western Australia, to take up the position of Inspector of Custodial Services of Western Australia.

Dr Toni Makkai appointed Adjunct Senior Research Fellow

Dr Toni Makkai, head of the AIC's Drug Monitoring Team, has been appointed honorary Adjunct Senior Research Fellow within the National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology for the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2002.

AIC staff nominated to Violence Against Women Network

AIC Research Analysts, Dr Margaret Cameron, Rebecca Tailby and Marianne James, have been appointed to the Violence Against Women Network, an initiative of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Partnerships Against Domestic Violence Taskforce.

NSW Police using AIC material in training

The New South Wales Police Service will include material from RPP No. 28 *Homicidal Encounters: A Study of Homicide in Australia 1989-1999*, in the Homicide Investigators Course at the NSW Police Academy.

This research by AIC Analyst Jenny Mouzos provides a comprehensive overview of homicide in Australia, based on data from the AIC's National Homicide Monitoring Program.

David Moxon from the Home Office in the UK presented a paper on the UK's ground-breaking Crime Reduction Programme, during a visit to the Institute in August.

As head of the Crime and Criminal Justice Unit in the Research, Development and Statistics Directorate his work covers research and statistics on a wide range of criminal justice issues, including recorded crime and the British Crime Survey, court proceedings, youth crime and drugs.

The Manifest on which the current UK Government was elected in 1997 declared that 'What counts is what works'. On law and order, the message was 'Tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime', with the pressure on to establish strategies which could most effectively reverse the long-term growth of crime.

This led to a major report drawing on evidence from around the world, which resulted in the largest investment in evidence-based crime reduction ever undertaken.

In his presentation, David Moxon described not only how research has been used to drive the policy agenda, including limitations and problems encountered.

He said that the key features of the process had been the cross-cutting approach involving much stronger collaboration between departments and agencies than had been the practice in the past, and the role of the Treasury in demanding evidence as a basis for continued funding.

Corrections on AIC website

Corrections in Australia is a new section on the AIC's website, which aims to provide a detailed profile of corrections and correctional issues in Australia.

It includes information on:

- Privatisation of corrections;
- Correctional statistics;
- Training information;
- Correctional standards; and
- Other online correctional publications.

This new section features maps covering all eight Australian jurisdictions that chart all adult correctional facilities with information on classification, capacity, function, and address.

Corrections in Australia is at: www.aic.gov.au/research/corrections/index.html

Directory of Researchers

The AIC has launched an updated *Australian Directory of Researchers in Criminology and Criminal Justice* on the AIC website.

The Directory, now with more than 80 entries, is at www.aic.gov.au/services/directories/researchers/index.html

All Australian researchers in criminology and related fields are welcome to contribute entries for the Directory.

To be included, or to advise of any changes, please e-mail Front.Desk@aic.gov.au.

New entries should include: name, position, organisation, address, email, telephone, fax, background/interests and current research (brief outline).

Publications

Watch our website (www.aic.gov.au/publications) for details on forthcoming publications or if you'd like to receive an email alert when publications are released please send your email address to aicpress@aic.gov.au

Research and Public Policy series

- No. 27** *Improving Environmental Performance, Preventing Environmental Crime*, by Peter Grabosky and Frances Gant; \$27.50 (inc. GST)
- No. 28** *Homicidal Encounters: A Study of Homicide in Australia 1989–1999*, by Jenny Mouzos; \$27.50 (inc. GST)
- No. 29** *Preventing Violence Within Organisations: A Practical Handbook*, by Claire Mayhew; \$22 (inc. GST)
- No. 30** *Preventing Client Initiated Violence: A Practical Handbook*, by Claire Mayhew; \$22 (inc. GST)
- No. 31** *The Promise of Crime Prevention*, by Peter Grabosky and Frances Gant; \$22 (inc. GST)
- No. 32** *Preventing Crime Against Older Australians*, by Marianne James and Adam Graycar; \$22 (inc. GST)
- No. 33** *Preventing Armed Robbery in the Workplace: A Practical Handbook*, by Claire Mayhew; \$22 (inc. GST)
- No. 34** *Alcohol, Young People and Violence*, by Paul Williams; \$22 (inc. GST)

Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice series

Titles from this series are listed on the enclosed order form.

Atlas of Crime in Australia

This new publication was released at the Crime Mapping: Adding Value to Crime Prevention and Control Conference on 20 September. See the enclosed order form for more details

Visitors to the AIC

- 22 June:** Dr Gloria Laycock, Visiting Fellow, National Institute of Justice, Washington DC (on leave from Home Office, UK).
- 27-29 June:** Professor Marcus Felson, Rutgers University presented three seminars (see *Roundtables* on page 4).
- 27 June:** Mr Toru Osaki, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan and Duan Da Qi, Ministry of Public Security, People's Republic of China, studying at the Australian Federal Police College (see photos below).
- 25 July:** Associate Professor Wendy Loxley, National Drug Research Institute presented a plaque to the AIC (see cover story).
- 28 July:** Ivan Kolarik, Executive Director National Police Ethnic Advisory Bureau; Mr Hass Dellal, Executive Director Australian Multicultural Foundation; and Chief Inspector Rod Norman, Youth Advisory Unit, Victoria Police to witness the presentation of a plaque (see cover story).
- 3 August:** David Moxon, UK Home Office to present an Occasional Seminar on Crime Reduction (see story on page 2).



L-R: Toru Osaki; Duan Da Qi; Dr Peter Grabosky, AIC Director of Research; and Dr Adam Graycar, AIC Director.



Delegation from the Ministry of Public Security, People's Republic of China

Conference Calendar

Coming in 2000...

Women in Corrections:

Staff and Clients

31 October - 1 November, Hindley Parkroyal, Adelaide.

Reducing Car Theft:

How Low Can We Go?

30 November - 1 December, Adelaide

Stalking

7-8 December, Landmark Parkroyal, Sydney.

Coming in 2001...

4th National Outlook Symposium:

New Crimes, New Responses

21-22 June, Rydges, Canberra.

Mental Health and Criminal Justice

November, Carlton Crest, Melbourne.

To be confirmed:

Technology and Crime Prevention, Detection and Incapacitation

February, Sydney.

Schools and Crime Prevention

May, Canberra.

Crime in Rural Australia

May - August,

Bathurst, Toowoomba, Bendigo.

Immigrant Communities and the Criminal Justice System

August, Brisbane.

Corruption

September, Canberra.

Best Practice in Corrections for Indigenous Prisoners

November, Sydney.

Full details of conferences will be available on our website at www.aic.gov.au or contact Conference Coordinators on phone (02) 6292 9000, fax (02) 6292 9002 or email conference@netinfo.com.au

AIC Roundtables

Sport, Young People and Crime Prevention, Part 2 (No. 38), 5 May

This was the second roundtable convened as a result of the Australian Sports Commission initiative, and organised by AIC Research Analyst Dr Margaret Cameron. It brought together officers from Commonwealth agencies and practitioners working on a project on young people, sport and recreational activity as a means to crime prevention.

The roundtable refined an AIC *Trends & Issues* paper (no. 165), which examines a variety of sporting activities that appear to have had a beneficial effect in steering young people away from crime. It discusses how wilderness and other programs have reduced vandalism and help develop pro-social behaviours.

Preventing Crime Against Older People (No. 39), 15 June

This was the first in the series prepared for National Crime Prevention. Presented by Dr Adam Graycar and Marianne James, it covered the range of criminal and social issues which affect Australia's older people, including predatory crime, fear of crime, elder abuse in both private homes and residential care, as well as economic crime.

Understanding and Controlling Violence (No. 40), 22 June

The AIC convened this roundtable for new officers of National Crime Prevention. It was led by Dr Peter Grabosky, AIC Director of Research, and assisted by AIC Research Analysts Dr Margaret Cameron, Frances Gant and Rebecca Tailby.

Burglary & Theft (No. 41), 27 June

The first of three roundtables led by Professor Marcus Felson, Rutgers University, participants included AIC staff, and representatives from National Crime Prevention.

The focus of Professor Felson's discussion was that a great deal of burglary and theft could be prevented by reducing opportunities for crime.

Young People and Crime (No 42), 28 June

In his second roundtable, Professor Marcus Felson outlined a variety of techniques by which physical impediments to young people's use of public space could be implemented, in order to alleviate the general public's fear of juvenile delinquency.

Participants, including staff from National Crime Prevention, the AIC and Criminal Justice Commission, made a substantial contribution to the debate.

Urban Design and Crime Prevention (No. 43), 29 June

In his third roundtable discussion, Professor Marcus Felson presented theoretical work, together with some specific examples from the US and UK, on the benefit of situational crime prevention.

Young People & Gangs (No. 44), 28 July

This roundtable, organised by Santina Perrone, drew attendees from both academic and government circles. Its objectives were wide-ranging, including discussion of:

- the conceptual and statistical ambiguity surrounding the expression "gang";
- the media (mis)representation of youth and how the generally negative media imagery creates fear of crime;
- youth/police relations and the issue of overpolicing/zero tolerance of young people in public spaces; and
- the socio-economic circumstances of contemporary youth, and how this may contribute to offending.

Brief notes

Reducing Criminality: Partnerships and Best Practice Conference

Early intervention and developmental approaches to crime prevention were some of the issues discussed at this conference held in Perth in July.

Keynote speakers included Dr Adam Graycar, AIC Director; Professor Ross Homel; Professor Fiona Stanley; David Moxon, UK Home Office; and Dame Margaret Bazley, Ministry of Social Policy in New Zealand.

Appointment of an ABCI Client Liaison Officer to the AIC

The Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (ABCI) is appointing Client Liaison Officers to key government agencies to assist them in a more timely and mutually beneficial way.

Intelligence Officer and WA Police Officer Darryl Cook has been our Client Liaison Officer since February.

DUMA technical meeting

A two-day technical meeting for the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) project was held at the Surry Hills Police Centre in Sydney in July, focussing on issues including watchhouse procedures and refinement of the DUMA questionnaire.

AIC CONTACTS

GPO Box 2944
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Tel: +61 2 6260 9221
Fax: +61 2 6260 9201

Email: Front.Desk@aic.gov.au
Publications: aicpress@aic.gov.au
Library: jvbarry@aic.gov.au
Conferences: conference@aic.gov.au
Home Page: <http://www.aic.gov.au>

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