

AIC Newsletter

Autumn 2001

Australian Institute of Criminology



Research Group restructure

The AIC's Research Group has been restructured to ensure the AIC is ready to face the challenges ahead in 2001-2.

The Group now consists of the following Programs:

- Crime and Justice Monitoring and Evaluation (Leader: Dr Toni Makkai)
- Sophisticated Crime and Regulation (Leader: Dr Russell Smith)
- Communities and Crime Analysis (Leader: Carlos Carcach)
- Public Policy and Drugs (Leader: Paul Williams)
- Research Dissemination and Support (Leader: Leanne Huddy).

Crime and Justice Evaluation and Monitoring Program

This program has two key areas in which its resources are concentrated:

- ongoing monitoring programs; and
- crime and justice evaluation and research studies.

There are two key objectives for the program:

- maintain on-going monitoring of criminal activity to highlight emerging trends, inform strategic interventions, facilitate evaluation of key interventions, and generally inform the community; and
- undertake specific research or evaluation projects that will underpin public policy debate and development in areas of key interest to core stakeholders.

There are five monitoring programs:

- National Homicide Monitoring (started: 1989)
- National Deaths in Custody (started: 1980)
- National Firearms Monitoring (started: 1999)
- Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (started: 1999)
- National Armed Robbery (developmental stage).

Specific research or evaluation projects currently include:

- Drug Driving (with Queensland Police Service)
- Stolen property market in the ACT
- ACT AFP Operational Anchorage
- Queensland Drug Court.

Sophisticated Crime and Regulation Program

This program's objectives are to provide information on, and analysis of, the causes, prevention, control and regulation of:

- economic crime;
- crime against business;
- organised and transnational crime;
- computer and telecommunications-related crime; and
- other complex criminal activities.

Specific research or evaluation projects currently include fraud; electronic crime; ATM related crime; organised/transnational crime; people smuggling; abalone poaching in Australia; and crime against business.

(Cont'd page 2)

\$1.8 million for DUMA project

Following the AIC's successful Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) pilot project, Senator Chris Ellison, Minister for Justice and Customs, announced funding of \$1.8 million to maintain the DUMA monitoring program for a further 2 years.

DUMA is a unique research project which provides rigorous data on illicit drugs at both a local and national level, including supply and demand, patterns of drug use, local drug markets, criminal activity and treatment.

DUMA is an important partnership between the Commonwealth and State police services.

AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty and Customs CEO Lionel Woodward recently highlighted the importance of DUMA to their agencies.

More information can be found at www.aic.gov.au/research/duma

Appointments

As part of the Research Group restructure, Dr Toni Makkai has been appointed Director of Research, and Dr Russell Smith has been appointed Deputy Director of Research.

Dr Peter Grabosky will be leaving the AIC (details in the next Newsletter).

Pat Mayhew from the Home Office, UK will shortly join the AIC (details in the next Newsletter).

inside this issue...

Evaluation
AIC Training Services
Conferences, Roundtables and Seminars

page 2
page 3
page 4

Research Group restructure

(Cont'd from page 1)

Communities and Crime Analysis Program

This program's general objective is:

- To conduct policy oriented research into the factors affecting crime in communities and its implications for crime prevention and control.

More specifically, the program aims to:

- (a) investigate the extent, nature, concentration and causes of crime in urban and rural Australia;
- (b) demonstrate the use of advanced technologies such as computerised crime mapping and other methods of spatial analysis in local crime prevention and control;
- (c) provide analysis and interpretation of crime and criminal justice statistics; and
- (d) provide statistical advice and data management support to other Institute research programs.

Current projects include:

- Development of data management systems
- Crime in rural and regional Australia
- Social capital and crime
- Cross-national comparisons of crime, justice and victimisation.

Public Policy and Drugs Program

This program's general objective is:

- To provide information on, and analysis of, the operation and impacts of the criminal justice system on vulnerable population groups; and provide information on and analysis of, criminal justice responses to drugs in society.

Specific research projects currently include:

- IDRS (Illicit Drug Reporting System)
- DUCO (Drug Use Careers of Offenders)
- Corrections
- Crime and older Australians
- Young people and crime.

Research Dissemination and Support Program

This program's objectives are:

- to publish, disseminate and promote AIC research; and
- to provide administrative support to the Research Group and the Criminology Research Council.

Specific activities include:

- publishing and disseminating AIC research via the Trends in Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice and Research and Public Policy series;
- composing and disseminating a new fortnightly initiative, *Crime Facts Info* (to receive this via email please email aicpress@aic.gov.au);
- preparation of the AIC/CRC Annual Report;
- media liaison; and
- administering the Violence Prevention Awards and CRC grants.

Evaluation

From January to April, Dr Gloria Laycock from the UK Home Office was a Visiting Fellow.

She worked on strengthening the AIC's evaluative capacity in situational crime prevention and enhancing relationships between the AIC and police.

As part of the AIC's refocus on evaluation, Gloria presented a number of invaluable in-house seminars, enabling AIC staff to re-skill in evaluation methods.

Topics included:

- The Context of Research - Getting it Right for Practitioners and Policy Makers
- Experimental Elephant Traps for Crime Preventors
- Switching on the Brain when Evaluating Crime Prevention Initiatives.

Occasional Seminars

The Culture of Inequality and Corruption: A Cross-cultural Analysis of Corruption

Professor Susanne Karstedt,
Department of Criminology, Keele University, 19 February 2001

It has been theorised that corruption gives people in the lower ranks of the social hierarchy opportunities to advance to higher levels. In addition, the high social stability of elites leads to inadequate social control by the government.

With the topic of corruption firmly on the AIC work agenda for 2002, this presentation was most timely.

Professor Karstedt's study, *The Cross-Cultural Analysis of Corruption*, examined the relationships between societal structure, cultural inequality and corruption, using data collected from 35 countries with various economic climates.

The results of this cross-national study indicated that a high level of corruption was related to societies with significant amounts of income inequality. Corruption supports, stabilises and deepens inequality.

In contrast, more homogenous societies with a low level of income inequality had differing amounts of corruption. This outcome was possibly due to various corruption prevention measures in place. Decreasing levels of corruption were also present in societies with a high level of secondary education and more females in government.

Factors that had a notable correlation with corruption are power distance, trust, income inequality and low GDP per capita.

(Seminars cont'd page 4)

Publications

Research and Public Policy series

Readers familiar with the Trends & Issues series may not be so familiar with this longer monograph series. For a list of titles see the enclosed order form.

Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice series

Titles from this series are listed in the enclosed order form. Watch the website at www.aic.gov.au/publications for details of the latest titles.

**If you wish to be alerted to new publications
send your email address to aicpress@aic.gov.au**

Other publications

Australian Crime: Facts and Figures 2000 is now available on the AIC's website at www.aic.gov.au/publications/facts/2000.

Single copies are available at no charge (phone 02 6260 9221, fax 02 6260 9203 or email aicpress@aic.gov.au).

Visitors to the AIC

7 February: Professor Tatuhiro Tateyama of Tokai University, Japan met with Dr Peter Grabosky and Dr Greg Urbas.

19 February: Professor Susanne Karstedt, Dept of Criminology, Keele University, UK presented an occasional seminar entitled *The Culture of Inequality and Corruption: A Cross-cultural Analysis of Corruption* (report page 2).

27 February: Professor Michael Levi, University of Cardiff and Lala Camerer, Institute for Security Studies, South Africa.

March: Professor Stephan Terblanche from the Dept of Criminal and Procedural Law, University of South Africa.

1 March: Dr R K Raghavan, Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation, New Delhi (photo right).

19 March: Professor Yoshinori Nakanome, Law Faculty, Chuo University met with AIC researchers.

20 March: Richard Harries, Home Office, UK presented an occasional seminar entitled *Criminal Justice in England & Wales: Recent Research and Radical Reform* (report page 4).



Dr R K Raghavan, Director, Central Bureau of Investigation, New Delhi (left) with Dr Adam Graycar, Director, AIC.

Interns

The AIC currently has two interns from the Australian National Internships Program, run by the ANU: Danielle Gentile, Franklin & Marshall College (US) and Sarah Joy, University of Sydney.

Our own interns, Lorraine Dailey (University of Western Sydney), Joanna Carr (University of Melbourne) and Paula Mazzocato (University of Sydney) join us in June.

Conference Calendar

2001

4th National Outlook Symposium on Crime in Australia:

New Crimes, New Responses,
21-22 June, Canberra

The Character, Impact and Prevention of Crime in Regional Australia,

2-3 August, Townsville

Crime in Regional Australia,
5-6 September, Kalgoorlie

Best Practice in Corrections for Indigenous Offenders,

8-9 October, Sydney

Police and Partnerships in a Multi-cultural Australia:

Achievements and Challenges,
25-26 October, Brisbane

Mental Health and Criminal Justice Workshop,

21-22 November, Melbourne

2002

Crime, Housing Policy and Social Capital,

March, Sydney

Schools and Crime Prevention, July, Canberra

Full details of all conferences are on our website at www.aic.gov.au

Training Crime Prevention Specialists for the Modern World

AIC Training Services have become a reality, with the AIC's highly sought after materials now available through a variety of training programs.

As the leader in criminological research and thinking in Australia, the Institute is establishing a training unit to deliver the latest crime facts, prevention techniques and crime policy analysis to your staff and law enforcement specialists.

For an initial discussion regarding your training needs contact
Dr Adam Graycar, 02 6260 9205 or
Geoff Chapman, 02 6260 9213.

Reducing Car Theft

30 November-1 December 2000, Adelaide

Held in conjunction with the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council, the aim of this conference was to challenge the current strategies of reducing car theft and discuss innovative approaches.

It brought together people from the insurance and motor industries, law enforcement, government and community organizations, and covered topics including technological innovations, young people, the stolen parts trade, and the role of the insurance industry.

International speakers as well as AIC staff, including Dr Adam Graycar, Dr Peter Grabosky, Carlos Carcach and Frances Gant, presented papers.

Copies of all conference papers can be found on the AIC's website at www.aic.gov.au/conferences

Global Directions: Local Solutions, International Policing Conference

6-8 March 2001, Adelaide

In line with its increased focus on policing activities, the AIC co-sponsored this major international policing conference with the SA Police, Australasian Centre for Policing Research and Australian Institute of Police Management.

AIC staff, Dr Adam Graycar, Dr Peter Grabosky, Dr Jerry Ratcliffe and Dr Russell Smith, presented papers and moderated sessions. More details can be found at www.ipc2001.org

Children, Young People and Communities – The Future is in our Hands

27-28 March, Launceston

The AIC co-sponsored this conference with the Department of Health and Human Services and University of Tasmania. The keynote speech was presented by Dr Adam Graycar.

Post Release:

Problems & Potential

(Nos. 49-51)

12 March 2001, Queensland

3 April 2001, Victoria

18 April 2001, Perth

This series of roundtable discussions held in conjunction with correctional authorities in three jurisdictions and other stakeholders, was organised by Dr Emma Ogilvie.

The objectives were to discuss the following key questions:

- What are the critical issues facing prisoners post-release?
- What are the critical issues facing vulnerable groups?
- What is the government's role in assisting prisoners post-release?
- How are we currently assisting, and how might we better assist, prisoners post-release?

This report will soon be available on the AIC website at www.aic.gov.au

Armed Robbery

(No. 52), 5 April 2001

This roundtable organised by Jenny Mouzos aimed to identify:

- concerns to law enforcement and policy issues regarding the prevention and control of armed robbery in Australia;
- data that are required to address these concerns and issues;
- what data currently exist; and
- gaps in knowledge not currently being addressed by the data.

Discussions also focused on:

- the feasibility of, and consensus on, the data items for a national minimum dataset; and
- developing steps towards establishing the national armed robbery monitoring program.

Following this roundtable the AIC will work towards the development of a national minimum dataset for armed robbery.

Criminal Justice in England and Wales: Recent Research and Radical Reform

Richard Harries, Strategic Policy Team, Home Office, UK, 20 March 2001

This presentation built on a previous talk by David Moxon from the UK Home Office. It focused on recent moves in the UK towards an evidence-based framework for criminal justice policy, which will drive the future of criminal justice policy in the UK and beyond.

The presentation was highly relevant to Australian policy makers and researchers, explaining the direction of research in the UK and ensuring researchers here avoid 'reinventing the wheel'.

More details are at www.aic.gov.au/conferences/occasional/harries

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- 186 *Restorative Justice and Conferencing in Australia*, Kathleen Daly and Hennessey Hayes
- 185 *Patterns of Drug Use Amongst Police Detainees: 1999-2000*, Tony Makkai, Doug Johnson & Wendy Loxley
- 184 *Crime Against Small Business in Australia: A Preliminary Analysis*, Santina Perrone
- 183 *Resilient and Non-Resilient Behaviour in Adolescents*, Sue Howard and Bruce Johnson
- 182 *Homicide Between Friends and Acquaintances*, Jenny Mouzos
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- 180 *Police Performance and Activity Measurement*, Vikki Dadds and Tammy Scheide
- 179 *Preventing Assaults on Australian Taxi Drivers*, Claire Mayhew

Research and Public Policy Series published recently:

- 37 *Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA): 2000 Annual Report of Drug Use Among Police Detainees*, Toni Makkai and Kiah McGregor, \$27.50
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- 32 *Preventing Crime Against Older Australians*, Marianne James and Adam Graycar, \$22

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