

AIC Newsletter

Spring 2001

Australian Institute of Criminology 

AIC Training off to a great start

A training course on Identity-related Fraud was presented in Canberra during November 2001 and drew a considerable amount of praise from participants. The course was designed for public sector managers and supervisors, but several people from law enforcement and the non-government sector also joined in.

There was unanimous endorsement of the value of the course and the practical application of the learning. All presenters rated well and there was widespread recognition of the workbook as a very valuable resource and reference for people engaged in fraud prevention and detection.

Typical comments included:

- *"The material, depth, pace... was great for a diverse group. Interest was maintained throughout"*
- *"All speakers most impressive"*
- *"An eye opener in relation to fraud"*
- *"Excellent [workbook] for future reference"*
- *"Will assist...preparation of fraud control plan"*

The next year

During 2002, we plan to offer this course in Canberra and other capital cities. Dates and venues will be available shortly. Please check the AIC web site for details or contact AIC Training Services, by telephone on (02) 6260 9235 or by email at training@aic.gov.au.

Private sector

We are carrying out research for a similar training course on identity fraud in the private sector. This should be available in the first half of 2002.

Breakfast briefings

Beginning in February 2002, Dr Adam Graycar, AIC Director, will be presenting a series of breakfast briefings for executives and senior managers in the public and private sectors in several capital cities. This builds on a successful breakfast briefing in Canberra on 2 November when about 70 senior managers participated.

Other training initiatives

2002 will also see courses on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) being delivered in cooperation with the New South Wales Police Service and the University of New South Wales (starting February/March); courses on quantitative research methodology (with the Institute of Public Administration Australia in Victoria); courses in aggression management and violence prevention; and courses leading to the Certificate IV in Government (Fraud Prevention/Detection), available mid-year.

The Institute has appointed Mr Stephen Bond as Manager, Learning and Knowledge Development Services, and he will commence at the end of January 2002.

Australian Violence Prevention Awards

Winners of the Australian Violence Prevention Awards were announced by Senator the Hon. Margaret Reid on behalf of Senator the Hon. Chris Ellison, Minister for Justice and Customs and Senator for Western Australia, on Thursday 18 October 2001.

The two projects selected as National Winners received \$10,000 each and a Certificate of Merit. They were:

- **'When Love Hurts': Violence Prevention for Young People** (Victoria); and
- **Port Augusta Aboriginal Families Project** (South Australia).

A Special Category Award, sponsored by the Hon. Dr Michael Wooldridge, Minister for Health and Aged Care, was awarded to **Safer Times Round Albury Wodonga for Women (STRAWS)** (New South Wales). This project also received \$10,000 and a Certificate of Merit.

More information on the winners and their projects can be obtained from the AIC web site at <http://www.aic.gov.au/avpa/2001.html>.



Winners of the Australian Violence Prevention Awards with Senator Margaret Reid (6th from left)

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Occasional seminars

The Fall in Crime in North America and Europe: Can We Explain It?

presented by Pat Mayhew, OBE, and consultant criminologist to the AIC, 8 November 2001.

This seminar examined the fall in crime in the United States and Canada, along with similar decreases in many European countries. Following decades of rising crime, this reverse is seen as a challenge for criminologists to explain. The fall in crime in these countries also begs questions about Australia, where an opposite trend is evident.

While no definitive answer could be provided to explain the fall in crime, Pat's discussion offered a range of explanations for increasing and declining crime trends (including demographic changes, better policing, changes in unemployment levels, and improved security) and rated each explanation according to its ability to be reliably assessed by researchers.



Dr Adam Graycar, AIC Director,
with Pat Mayhew

Pat Mayhew, who is Deputy Head of the Crime and Criminal Justice Unit in the Research Statistics and Development Directorate of the UK Home Office, will be at the AIC until April 2003.

Technological Innovation for Crime Prevention presented by Hin Oey, 28 September 2001

As the head of Crime Prevention within the Technology and Society Program of Senter, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Mr Hin Oey presented a seminar which examined ways in which crime prevention can

be facilitated through innovation in technology in the Netherlands. While it was noted that within Senter's Crime Prevention program, over 25 projects have already been completed or are still under way, a few examples were presented during the seminar, some of which include projects in the field of closed-circuit television (CCTV), early warning devices, personal alarm and location systems, virtual reality, biometrics, redevelopment of locking techniques, visual safety, and socially secure lighting. The seminar provided a succinct overview of the various ways technology was being used to prevent crime in the Netherlands. See www.aic.gov.au/conferences/occasional/oey.html for more details.



(L-R) Hin Oey, Dr Adam Graycar, AIC
Director, and Dr Toni Makkai, AIC
Research Director

How the Mix of Drug Control Strategies Should Vary Over a Drug Epidemic presented by Jonathan Caulkins, Professor of Operations Research and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University, United States, 1 November 2001.

This seminar considered how the effectiveness of drug control policies varies over time, as patterns of drug use change. It was argued that to be effective, drug control policies must respond to specific phases of a drug use "epidemic" (for example, when an epidemic is in the early, contagious stage as opposed to when it is established and the market for a particular drug has matured) rather than maintaining a single control strategy for the duration of the

epidemic. Dr Caulkins drew on both formal mathematical models and an analysis of previous policies in his presentation. More details are at www.aic.gov.au/conferences/occasional/caulkins.html.

Visitors to the AIC

5 September: A delegation from the Japanese Prosecutor-General, Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office and colleagues (see photo).

7 September: A delegation from China on a Juvenile Justice study tour.

19 September: A delegation from the Singapore Ministry of Community Development and Sports.

28 September: Hin Oey of the Technology and Society Programme, Senter, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, presented an occasional seminar on "Technological Innovation for Crime Prevention". (See report on seminar in this issue.)

1 November: Jonathan P. Caulkins, of Carnegie Mellon University in the United States, presented an occasional seminar on "How the Mix of Drug Control Strategies Should Vary Over a Drug Epidemic". (See report on seminar in this issue.)

23 November: Six Law Enforcement Cooperation Program (LECP) International-sponsored participants.



Mr Akio Harada, Mr Yasuhiro Tarabe,
Mr Daisuke Moriyama, Mr Toru Osaki
and Dr Peter Grabosky meet with AIC
staff Mr John Myrtle and
Dr Russell Smith

Conferences

Best Practice Interventions in Corrections for Indigenous People, 8–9 October 2001, Sydney

The AIC hosted this conference in conjunction with the Department of Corrective Services, New South Wales. The aim of the conference was to discuss the needs of Indigenous men and women undertaking sentences in the community or in detention or prison (including juvenile detention). The conference provided a forum for juvenile and adult correctional administrators, staff, community corrections officers, policy makers, health and educational professionals, judicial practitioners and academics to explore and develop the issues involved in best practice.

The conference was opened with a welcome given by Auntie Allie Golding, an Aboriginal elder. The opening address was delivered by Senator The Hon. Chris Ellison, Minister for Justice and Customs. The keynote addresses were given by Dr Leo Keliher, then-Commissioner of New South Wales Corrective Services, and Tauto Sansbury, Chair of the South Australian Aboriginal Justice Advocacy Committee and the National Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee.

Other speakers included Associate Professor Sherry Sagers from the Indigenous Australian Research Team, National Drug Research Institute; Darcy Turgeon, Department of Corrective Services Queensland; and Dr Jan Gossage, University of New Mexico. The speeches covered a diverse and interesting range of topics including: culturally appropriate programs; community corrections and diversion programs; drug and alcohol interventions; juvenile justice interventions; and family violence programs. The closing address was given by Dr Adam Graycar, Director of the AIC.

Policing Partnerships in a Multicultural Australia: Achievements and Challenges, 25–26 October 2001, Brisbane

Held in conjunction with the National Police Ethnic Advisory Bureau and the Australian Multicultural Foundation, this conference had two aims. First, to examine the achievements made by police jurisdictions in Australia over the past decade with respect to the management of cultural diversity and, second, to ascertain the challenges to effective policing brought about by an increasingly diverse, complex and globalised environment, and to assist in the development of appropriate policing directions and responses.

Speakers included Commissioner Bob Atkinson of Queensland Police, Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon of Victoria Police, Commissioner Mal Hyde of South Australia Police and Dr Robin Oakley, an independent consultant on race relations to police services in the United Kingdom and Europe. The conference also marked the retirement of Ivan Kolarik, Executive Director of the NPEAB and the appointment of his successor, Gerard Daniells from Western Australia Police Service.

AIC departures

Ibolya Losoncz, Jessica Marshall and Catherine Stein have recently left the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Publications

If you wish to be alerted to new publications, or to receive the fortnightly Crime Facts Info sheets, send your email address to aicpress@aic.gov.au.

Conference program

2002

- Housing, Crime and the City, 6–7 May, Melbourne
- Crime Prevention, September, Sydney
- Community Corrections, September, TBC
- Crime and Schools: Preventing Violence and Property Offences, September/October, Melbourne
- Criminal Justice Evaluation: Methods, Process and Outcomes, October, Canberra
- Juvenile Justice, November, TBC
- Current Issues in Regulation: Enforcement and Compliance, November, Melbourne

2003

- Child Sex Offenders and the Law, March, Adelaide

Watch the AIC web site for updates to the conference program.

Roundtables

Drug Use Careers of Offenders (no. 56), 30 October 2001, Darwin

This roundtable was hosted in conjunction with the Northern Territory Correctional Services (NTCS). The aim of the roundtable was to:

- introduce the DUCO project;
- brief the attendants on its progress;
- present topline results for the Northern Territory;
- discuss interpretation of topline results in the local (that is, Northern Territory) context with local candidates; and
- discuss structure and content of the Territory Report.

The roundtable was attended by representatives from NT Correctional Services, Department of Health and Aged Care, Territory Health Services,

(Roundtables con't page 4)

Roundtables (con't)

NTsafe Secretariat, ATSIC, Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Office of Aboriginal Development, NT Police and Department of Industries and Business.

The roundtable followed a similar exercise in Tasmania in September (Roundtable no. 57)

Youth Gangs (no. 55), 24 October 2001, Brisbane

Held in Brisbane to coincide with the Policing Partnerships conference (see report on page 3 in this issue), this roundtable aimed to build on developments and knowledge acquired since the publication of *Trends and Issues* no. 167, "Young People and Gangs", published late in 2000.

The roundtable was generously hosted by Queensland Police Service and attended by senior representatives of most State and Territory police services. New South Wales Departments of Juvenile Justice and Corrective Services were also represented, as were academic and non-government organisations. The roundtable also benefited from the attendance of Dr Robin Oakley. Dr Adam Graycar and Peter Marshall attended from the AIC. Discussions focused on:

- definitional issues of "what is a gang?";
- relationships between young people—particularly in groups—and police, as well as with other policing organisations such as private security guards; and
- the issues for management of gangs, particularly in custodial environments where they are inevitably concentrated.

The debate will indirectly contribute to another *Trends and Issues* report on the subject, scheduled to be released early in 2002.

Drug Court Evaluation Workshop (no. 58), 26 November 2001, Adelaide

The AIC and the South Australian Office of Crime Statistics organised a roundtable on evaluating drug courts in Australia in December in Adelaide. The purpose was to bring together those people closely associated with the

evaluations to discuss the issues and problems in conducting this kind of work. All of the drug courts in Australia are either being evaluated or there are plans to evaluate. Key representatives from Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales attended the meeting which was chaired by Dr Toni Makkai, AIC Director of Research. A broad range of issues was discussed, including:

- benefits and limitations of process evaluation;
- measuring "success" and "failure";
- how important experimental designs are;
- potential risk factors to the integrity of the evaluation design;
- dealing with absconding in drug court evaluation design;
- issues of evaluation within a politicised context; and
- developing and maintaining a database.

Illicit Aspects of the Diamond Industry (no. 54), 22 October 2001, Canberra

With a view to exploring illegality within the diamond industry and its potential impact on Australian interests, the AIC hosted a roundtable that gathered together a range of stakeholders with an interest in Australia's diamond industry. Strong representation from industry—including Argyle Diamonds (Australia's largest diamond producer), De Beers and BHPBilliton—was complemented by representation from various Commonwealth departments including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Customs, Tax, Industry/Science/Resources, Attorney-Generals and the National Crime Authority. Also participating was the officer in charge of Australia's specialist diamond investigation unit (part of the Western Australia Police).

The day provided an opportunity to share experiences and knowledge on issues including:

- illicit activity in the diamond industry, both internationally and domestically—do we have a problem in Australia, and if so, what is the nature of the problem(s)?;

- vulnerabilities of Australia's diamond industry to possible future penetration by criminal actors and/or illicit transactions;
- current law enforcement and policy initiatives directed to protecting the legitimacy of Australia's diamond industry; and
- current industry processes/initiatives to prevent, detect and respond to illicit activity.

The discussions enhanced awareness of the nature of the problems and highlighted the fact that concerns of illegality within industry are relevant across a range of government portfolios. The group agreed that the potential impact of criminal activity within Australia's diamond industry was significant and that greater recognition of the issues was needed within government. A *Trends and Issues* paper outlining the major issues will be released in January 2002.

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