

AIC Newsletter

No. 19, April 2003

Australian Institute of Criminology



Current Research Developments

The AIC works across a wide range of activities, but is always looking to be at the cutting edge of relevance and research. In recent times the Institute has decided to strengthen and rebuild in the following areas:

- violence and violence prevention;
- juvenile justice;
- crime prevention; and
- community corrections.

Research teams have developed projects, and a number of roundtable seminars have been held to scope these fields and develop research agendas for them.

On 5 December 2002, the Prime Minister announced that the Commonwealth had set, for the first time, four National Research Priorities, one of which, *Safeguarding Australia*, relates closely to AIC work. The Institute has been

involved in a number of discussions about how this theme can be incorporated into our research, and will soon be preparing a report for the Minister for Science which will include substantive topics as well as partnerships to deal with these topics in a cross-disciplinary and cross-agency manner.

This research would cover such themes as safety in our homes and communities; analyses of violent and property crime; economic crime; and threats to our national borders in terms of people smuggling, drug trafficking and various Internet fraud and crime-related activity. These topics have been canvassed with other agencies in government, and will be the focus of a joint roundtable by the AIC and the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia in April 2003.

Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards

Winners of the 2002 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards were announced by Senator the Hon. Christopher Ellison, Minister for Justice and Customs, on Thursday 24 October 2002 (see photo below). The annual awards are sponsored by the heads of Australian governments

and members of the Australian and New Zealand Crime Prevention Ministerial Forum as a joint Commonwealth, state and territory initiative, with monetary awards totalling \$130,000. Details of the winners can be found at www.aic.gov.au/avpa/2002.html.



Winners of the 2002 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards, with Senator the Honourable Chris Ellison.

Two-day Restorative Justice Course

Restorative Justice is a process which advocates that the people who are most effective at finding a solution to a problem are those most directly affected by the problem. Victims of crime, offenders and the community are typically brought together to understand, clarify and resolve incidents and work together towards repairing the harm caused.

The AIC will be presenting a two-day course on Restorative Justice which Andrew Paterson and Leigh Garrett, two of Australia's most experienced and passionate advocates of Restorative Justice, will be presenting.

Those working with youth, in corrections, courts, police services, crime prevention, prosecutions, schools and tertiary institutions, and victim support services as well as with Indigenous issues, will be challenged by the course which provides an introduction to both the theory and practice of Restorative Justice and implementation strategies in local communities.

See the AIC web site, www.aic.gov.au, for updated information as to content, location, dates and costs.

Former AIC Staff Receive Honours

Two former senior staff of the Australian Institute of Criminology were awarded medals in the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours for their contribution to Criminology: Professor David Biles OAM and Professor Paul Wilson OAM. Our congratulations go to both.

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Conferences

Probation and Community Corrections: Making the Community Safer, 23–24 September 2002, Perth

Held in conjunction with the Probation Community Corrections Officers' Association, the aim of this conference was to provide a platform for the dissemination of information about current and proposed practice and research in the field of community corrections. Conference themes included managing community corrections, rehabilitation and practice, programs and intervention, and justice responses.

The conference was jointly opened by Dr Adam Graycar, Director of the AIC, and Marion Lofthouse, President of the Probation and Community Corrections Officers' Association. The Hon Jim McGinty, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Legal Affairs in Western Australia, also addressed the opening session.

Professor Todd Clear from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York gave the keynote address, "Community justice as public safety". Other speakers included representatives from government and research organisations in Australia

2003 Conference Program

- Evaluation in Crime and Justice: Trends and Methods (with the ABS), 24–25 March, Canberra
- Child Sexual Abuse: Justice Response or Alternative Resolution, 1–2 May, Adelaide
- Inhalant Use and Disorder, 7–8 July, Townsville
- Graffiti and Disorder (with the Australian Local Government Association), 21–22 August, Brisbane
- Juvenile Justice, 7–8 November, Sydney

Watch the AIC web site (www.aic.gov.au) for updates to the conference program.

and overseas. Conference papers can be found at www.aic.gov.au/conferences/probation/program.html.

The Role of Schools in Crime Prevention, 30 September–1 October 2002, Melbourne

This conference was held jointly with Crime Prevention Victoria and the Victorian Department of Education and Training. The aim was to provide an opportunity for practitioners, researchers and policy-makers to discuss the incidence and types of antisocial behaviour and crime in schools. Particular emphasis was also placed on preventive strategies and proactive programs.

Conference themes included conflict management, bullying in schools, drug/alcohol issues, student code of conduct, risk and protective factors, diversity, regional and rural issues, school and community partnerships and, research and evaluation.

The keynote address was given by Margaret Shaw, Director of Analysis and Exchange, International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, Quebec, Canada. Other overseas speakers included Wim Ruijsendaal from Amsterdam in the Netherlands and Carmen Domingo-Swartz from the CSIR Crime Prevention Centre in South Africa. Conference papers can be found at www.aic.gov.au/conferences/schools/.

7th World Criminal Justice Library Network Meeting, 13–15 January 2003, Canberra

The theme of the seventh meeting of the World Criminal Justice Library Network (WCJLN) was *International Cooperation for Criminal Justice Information: Extending the Reach*.

The meeting was organised and hosted by the AIC in association with the Australian Federal Police, and held at Burgmann College, Australian National University.

The Institute is a founding member of the network, originally established in 1991, and this was the first time that a WCJLN meeting had been held outside of either Europe or North America.

In addition to the Institute and AFP, other sponsors of the meeting were the Jerry Lee Center of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania, and Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice, Newark, New Jersey.

In total, 40 delegates attended the meeting; 20 from overseas and a further 20 from Australia. Outside of Australia, the countries represented were: Canada, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and Vanuatu. In keeping with the theme of the meeting in extending the reach of the network, the Institute sponsored two librarians from the South Pacific to attend: Peter Murgatroyd from the University of the South Pacific, Vanuatu; and Farapo Opa, from Papua New Guinea's Department of Justice & Attorney-General.



Among the many international visitors to the AIC was Mangai Natarajan, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. She is pictured here with Dr Adam Graycar and Dr Toni Makkai.

AIC Appointments



Tim Clarke, Lee Milner and Marissa McCall have recently joined the Institute. They are pictured here (L-R) with Dr Adam Graycar.

AIC Departures

Vanessa Dennison, Dita Kruze and Dr Sam Jeffries have recently left the Institute.

Roundtables

DUMA 2002 Technical Meeting (no. 71), 26 September 2002, Adelaide

The South Australian Police Service and the AIC jointly hosted the DUMA 2002 Technical Meeting. Thirty delegates, including site managers from the seven DUMA sites, attended the meeting. The seven DUMA sites were also represented by a member from each watchhouse, who could inform the meeting of the technical and operational factors affecting the DUMA project.

While the main focus of the technical meeting was to discuss the progression of DUMA, speakers from a variety of governmental agencies also spoke about their experiences/uses of DUMA data.

Post-Release Issues and Services (no. 72), 4 October 2002, Canberra

This roundtable was aimed at understanding the issues and challenges that confront Australian prisoners when they return to the mainstream community, as well as the services and support that can assist in addressing the challenges. This one-day event was held in Canberra and was jointly hosted by the AIC and the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services. (cont'd page 4)

Occasional Seminars

4 October 2002: Penal Mortality in Historical and Comparative Perspective: Russia, Europe and Australia, Stephen G. Wheatcroft. For details see www.aic.gov.au/conferences/occasional/2002-10-wheatcroft.html.

8 October 2002: Promoting Safety in Schools: International Experience and Action, Margaret Shaw.

15 November 2002: Inhalant Users: Juvenile and Adult Incarcerated Populations at Special Risk, Jane Maxwell. For details, see www.aic.gov.au/conferences/occasional/2002-11-maxwell.html.

Library News

Assistance to Papua New Guinea

As reported elsewhere, the Institute sponsored Ms Farapo Opa, Principal Librarian, Papua New Guinea Department of Justice & Attorney-General, to attend the recent World Criminal Justice Library Network meeting in Canberra.

The J.V. Barry Library is working with Ms Opa to identify criminal justice and criminological material that may be available in Australia to build and supplement the existing collection in the Department's library in Papua New Guinea.

Barry Commemoration

On 13 June 2003 the Institute will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Sir John Vincent Barry's birth. Sir John was a distinguished criminologist and jurist, recognised as a key figure in the establishment of the AIC. He died in 1969.

The AIC is planning a celebration with Sir John's family, including an afternoon seminar on Sir John's life with an address by Professor Mark Finnane, Professor of History and Dean of Postgraduate Education, Griffith University.



Ms Farapo Opa, Principal Librarian, Papua New Guinea Department of Justice & Attorney-General, with Mr John Myrtle, Principal Librarian, J.V. Barry Library.

Roundtables (con't from page 3)

Participating stakeholders included representatives of state correctional services and a range of other state and Commonwealth agencies. Prisoner support and advocacy groups were also represented.

Indigenous Community-based Programs (no. 73), 3–4 December 2002, Canberra

The Criminology Research Council (CRC) is keen to target specific areas for grants to improve knowledge about locally developed Indigenous community-based programs. On 3 and 4 December 2002 a roundtable was held to explore such programs. The thrust was to establish what Indigenous programs are currently in place and which ones are actually effective. Under the guidance of Mick Dodson and Kate George, a number of researchers came together to focus on locally developed community-based programs to determine what is in operation, and why some programs work and others don't.

Following the roundtable a report was developed which has been presented to

the CRC. The Council recognises that regional and remote community requirements are very different from those in cities, and advice from this roundtable will assist in the funding of relevant research projects.

Interventions to Prevent Crime Against Older Australians (no. 74), 6 December 2002, Canberra

The objective of this roundtable was to present and discuss the findings of research conducted by the AIC, in partnership with the Australian Local Government Association, the Australian Council on the Ageing and the National Seniors Association, on behalf of the Office for an Ageing Australia. The aim of this project was to provide a fuller picture of the extent to which current policies, services and programs are providing the opportunity for older Australians to live a safe and confident life in our communities.

Illicit Drug Reporting System (no. 75), 11 February 2003, Canberra

The AIC annually conducts the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) project

examining changes and new trends in the ACT drug market.

This is part of a national project, coordinated by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre and funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund.

As part of this project, a roundtable was held at the AIC on 11 February 2003. Its

purpose was to provide results of the ACT component of the project to local stakeholders and data providers. The roundtable also provided an opportunity to discuss participants' experiences working in the drug field, and possible factors influencing next year's results.

Community Corrections Research: Setting the Direction (no. 76), 19 February 2003, Canberra

Researchers and practitioners came together at the AIC in Canberra to develop a framework for progressing research in probation and community corrections. The AIC and the Probation and Community Corrections Officers' Association (PACCOA) jointly convened this one-day event.

Discussion focused on the steps necessary to establish a national framework for the understanding and sharing of research into the effectiveness of correctional interventions, especially those occurring within the community. The practical implementation issues associated with developing and advancing a national probation and community corrections research agenda were examined, in addition to the philosophical perspectives that can guide the conduct and use of research.

Five AIC Work Experience Internships Awarded for 2003



In its third annual intake of work experience interns, the AIC has once again been inundated with applications. This year congratulations go to Heidi Savilla (University of South Australia), Michelle Yan (University of Western Sydney), Claire Kendall (Macquarie University), Matt Black (Griffith University) and Deborah Lindner (Bond University).

Publications

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

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: www.aic.gov.au

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