

AIC Newsletter

No. 20, September 2003

Australian Institute of Criminology



Parting words on work that matters

In September 2003 Dr Adam Graycar resigned from the AIC to become Head of the Cabinet Office, Government of South Australia. Stephen Bond, Manager of Learning & Knowledge Development at the AIC, conducted the following interview with outgoing Director Dr Adam Graycar.

Adam, you took up your position nine years ago, in 1994. As the longest serving Director of AIC, what are the highs and lows of your time here?

Shortly before I came to the AIC in 1994 the Institute had received a review that concluded that the AIC had lost its way, and recommended a budget cut of one third. The lows involved working in an agency which then had severe financial problems, low staff morale and poor relations with some key stakeholders.

The highs have been the current standing of the AIC, nationally and internationally, and the process of getting there—the commitment and hard work of the staff, their skill and dedication and their contribution to what matters. I get a real high when, out and about, people who use our work tell me how much they value it, and tell me how one of our staff has done a fabulous job in a particular area. The best high has been watching the development of younger staff members.

From your strategic perspective, what are the current trends in crime and crime prevention, and are they different to nine years ago?



Dr Adam Graycar: "There are enormous challenges brought on by technology, demography and environment."

I could rattle off a catalogue of what we do, but the staples are always there: strengthening our social structures to make sure people behave well—enhancing and promoting civility, instilling a respect for the law and also making crime harder to commit.

Apart from the enduring areas of juvenile justice, violence prevention and property protection, there are enormous challenges brought on by technology, demography and environment.

Technological change emphasises that crime knows no boundaries but law enforcement is geographically and jurisdictionally constrained—this is demonstrated in the growth areas of identity fraud, cyber crime and high-tech crime, all of which are on the AIC's agenda.

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Roundtables

Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault: Setting the Agenda (No. 77), 11 April 2003, Canberra

As part of the National Initiative to Combat Sexual Assault, the Office of the Status of Women (OSW) has commissioned the AIC to research criminal justice responses to sexual assault.

This roundtable was convened by the AIC and OSW to identify and prioritise core research issues for the second year of the project.

Participating stakeholders included representatives of criminal justice agencies from most states and territories, state and federal government departments, academics, researchers and victim advocates.

Based on issues emerging from the roundtable, the proposed agenda will combine innovative research work with a focused discussion of selected issues and best practice initiatives.

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What do you want?

The AIC is seeking expressions of interest for locations around Australia for future short courses. To help us, fill in the questionnaire on the back page and fax it back.

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Dr Graycar's parting words

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Demographic change constructs criminal opportunities and tensions as our immigrant profile changes, as our urban—rural population balance changes and as our population ages. All have strategic research and crime prevention agendas. In working with older people for example, protecting their assets against criminal exploitation is one area of work, and preventing duty of care crime is another.

Environmental challenges also generate criminal activities such as illicit fishing, hazardous wastes, and the big looming issue, water theft.

Most of the issues that were around nine years ago are still with us and many of our volume crimes have levelled off in number and rate, so some preventive things are working, and police are working better and smarter. However, the rapid growth of identity fraud and the challenges of public security will keep us thinking and working hard.

To what do you attribute the success of AIC under your long stewardship?

Teamwork.

What are AIC's greatest strengths? Have these evolved during your time here and in fact, are they still evolving? How so?

The staff: We have a highly skilled and dedicated team. They are learning all the time—learning more about crime and its context and consequences, and learning and refining their methodological and research skills.

We have invested a lot in training, and in quality equipment and tools for staff.

Many of the staff, like me, came without a criminological background and the diverse skills of the staff are a formidable base upon which to build.

The focus is on rigour, and quality in all our work is something that we can't compromise and this always evolves. It gives us the authoritative visibility that situates our contribution in the criminal justice and crime prevention world.

Leaving a job always means that there were some things that you wanted to achieve but just could not in the time available: what would you still have liked to do at AIC?

The longer one spends in a job, the more there is to do, and there are lots of things I would have liked to have completed.

First and most importantly is the cementing of our training function. Our legislation gives the AIC training and research functions, and while we have performed well in the latter, we need more time to set up our training structures and adapt the feedback we get. The materials we have in our training are top quality and it always takes longer than expected to make a new function financially self-supporting, but we'll get there before too long. I only wish we were there now.

Second, I would have liked to have finalised more agreements with the private sector to use our work, e.g. our work in small business crime prevention, fraud prevention, retail theft, etc. We're on the way, but there's a little more to do.

Third, I would have liked to have expanded our work on preventing crime against vulnerable populations.

Fourth, I would have liked to have persuaded our university criminology departments to lift their game and teach more quantitative methods.

Fifth, I would have liked to have changed cultural attitudes towards data sharing and release—I am astounded at how many officials make access to data so very hard for people like us, and the worst offenders are those who have data that has been collected with taxpayers' dollars and which should be

in the public domain. Hopefully the next AIC Director will not have to fight so hard to have access to data.

Finally, I would have liked to have encouraged the heads of our correctional services departments around Australia to get their heads out of the sand and have them recognise the value of research so they might actively support agencies like the AIC that want to help their departments build an evidence basis that can assist them in their work.

The AIC occupies a special place in Australian society. What makes a good Director of an institution like AIC?

Apart from managing an agency and having excellent relations with staff, a good Director has to be a visionary and strategic leader. A good Director especially has to understand research and understand policy, and be comfortable in both worlds. A key task is to build a bridge between these two domains, neither of which really understands the other, and then turn that bridge into a super highway.

Any words of advice for your successor?

My successor will have to do things his/her way and the only piece of advice is always value the staff and nurture their skills and dedication.

For what would you like to be remembered at AIC.

That the AIC has an enduring reputation for doing work that matters, and having it widely regarded as rigorous and authoritative and, equally importantly, for leaving an organisation full of staff who are so proud to work there.

Thank you Adam. We wish you every success in your new appointment.

Symposium pays homage to a founding father

A commemorative symposium was held at the AIC on 13 June to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sir John Vincent Barry, the pre-eminent figure in the history of Australian criminology.

Sir John Barry was born on 13 June 1903 and became a judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1947. He was influential in moves for the establishment of the Australian Institute of Criminology which opened in 1973, a short time after his death on November 1969.

In 1967, he was elected Foundation President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology.

The symposium, which was attended by members of Sir John's family, as well as numerous distinguished guests from around Australia, was opened by Dr Russell Smith, Deputy Director of Research at the AIC (who, incidentally, had been awarded the John Barry Medal in Criminology in 1981 from the University of Melbourne).



At the symposium in honour of Sir John Vincent Barry: from left, daughter-in-law Arda Barry, son John and daughters Susy Barry and Joan Hardy.

Others who addressed the Symposium were Mark Finnane, Professor of History and Dean of Postgraduate Education, at Griffith University; Norval Morris, Julius Kreeger Professor of Law and Criminology, Emeritus, at the University of Chicago Law School, who sent a pre-recorded personal reflection; David Biles OAM, Professorial Associate in Corrections at Charles Sturt University and former Deputy

Director at the AIC; and Dr Don Weatherburn PSM, Director of the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research and President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Inc.

After the symposium, Sir John's daughter Susy Barry presented the Manager of Information Services, Ms Janet Smith, with a photographic portrait of Sir John.

17 years later, library linchpin calls it a day

In June 2003, John Myrtle retired as Principal Librarian at the AIC. In the 17 years John has been at the J V Barry Library, the volume and distribution of information has changed in a way that would have seemed inconceivable when he started at the AIC.

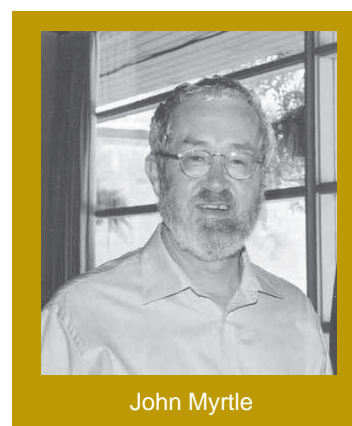
However, the stature and standing of the J V Barry Library has grown under his stewardship and today it ranks as one of the finest criminological libraries in the world.

John has made a tremendous contribution to the AIC and not just to the library. He is a professional of the highest standing, a mentor to younger staff, an able and credible represent-

ative of the AIC in both national and international arenas, and a great team player. He has been a sterling support to each of the Directors under whom he has served.

There would not be a person working in criminology in Australia who has not received information from John Myrtle.

The high regard in which he is held is evident also in the international arena. Researchers and practitioners in all types of justice agencies are much more aware that the custodian and disseminator of Australian criminological information is John Myrtle, than they are of any other aspect of Australian criminology.



John Myrtle

John has always been available to share an idea, steer a researcher or policy or operational person in the right direction, and to contribute to the process of making knowledge available.

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PUBLICATIONS

Publications can be purchased from the AIC with credit card authorisation or by cheque (use order form enclosed) or from InfoAccess until it closes in October.

There are five ways to purchase from InfoAccess:

1. Over the counter

Nine Government Info Shops
and one agent in Darwin

2. TeleInfo

Toll free 132 447

3. Mail Order

Government Info Shop
GPO Box 84, Canberra ACT 2601

4. Fax 02 6295 4888

5. Internet

<http://www.dcita.gov.au/infoaccess>

AIC new starters



Left to right: Dr Pat Jobes, Dr Jeremy Prichard, Katherine Anderson, Janet Smith, Carmen Schulte, Lance Smith, Dr Judy Putt (pictured on page 7), Jamie Walvisch (not pictured), with Dr Adam Graycar

AIC departures

The following people have recently left the Institute: Dr Jerry Ratcliffe, Stuart Candy, Tim Clarke, Pat Mayhew, Dr Debra Rickwood, Mark White, and John Myrtle.

Roundtables

cont. from page 1

People Smuggling: Global Dimensions (No. 78), 14 April 2003, Adelaide

The AIC, in conjunction with the University of Adelaide Law School held this roundtable at the University of Adelaide.

There has been increasing cross-border migration accompanied by growing levels of organised smuggling of migrants in recent years. Migrant smugglers have created illegal ways of migration by using clandestine methods of transporting people and/or by supplying sophisticated false documents, while exploiting those willing or forced to migrate.

The smuggling of migrants in the Asia Pacific region has become a multi-billion dollar industry, and illegal migration has become a lucrative source of income for criminal organisations.

The events of 11 September 2001 and the Bali bombings in October 2002 resulted in a further tightening of international borders. The war on Iraq will also have major implications on refugee flows and illegal migration in the region.

The roundtable featured four sessions on Australian perspectives on people smuggling, regional implications, illegal immigration in a post-September 11 world, and future international and regional cooperation, preventive policy and practice.

Participants included representatives from DIMIA, Attorney-General's Department, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Monash University, AIC, the University of Adelaide Law School, and the Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies, US Department of Defence.

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

Conferences

Evaluation in Crime and Justice: Trends and Methods (with the Australian Bureau of Statistics), Canberra, 24–25 March 2003

The aim of this first joint conference was to provide a forum for the debate and advancement of ideas in relation to research and evaluation methodology issues in the crime and justice policy environment, given the competing demands placed on researchers in this context.

The conference had a fairly specialised focus compared to other conferences held by the AIC and was anticipated to appeal to a smaller target audience.

However, response to the conference was beyond expectations, testing the capacity of the ABS Auditorium for the opening session.

The discussion over the two days was focused on contemporary emerging issues to research practitioners and concerns in the policy, context specific and current knowledge gaps and the widely felt need for such a forum.

The conference was well attended by researchers and practitioners from a wide range of criminal justice fields, with representation from throughout Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom.

The keynote address was given by Professor Paul Wiles, the Chief Scientific Advisor to the Home Office and the Director of Research Development and Statistics.

His address set the scene for much of the ensuing discussion, focusing on the increasing demand for cost/benefit analysis within evaluations, the need for statistics being gathered to be subject to multi-level analysis and the need for policy makers, statisticians and researchers to work together. Other key speakers included Commander Murray Lampard (West

Australian Police Service), Associate Professor Lorraine Mazerolle (Griffith University), Barbara Dunlop (ABS), Dr Holly Johnson (Statistics Canada) and Dr Daniel Sansfacon (International Centre for Crime Prevention) as well as AIC Director of Research Dr Toni Makkai.

In addition to plenary and concurrent sessions, the conference also ran a number of workshop sessions. The response to this format was positive and encouraged increased interaction and a less formal atmosphere.

These workshops ranged from a panel discussion exploring the relationship between consultants and clients, policy simulation models, a discussion of the role of ethics in research, an exploration of analysis methods for crime and justice research, a presentation on crime mapping applications and a data overview from both the ABS and the AIC.

Eleven papers were presented by AIC staff.



AIC Director of Research Dr Toni Makkai and Professor Paul Wiles relax.

Papers are available from the AIC web site at <<http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/evaluation/>>.

Child Sexual Abuse—Justice Response or Alternative Resolution, Adelaide, 1–2 May 2003

This conference provided a forum for academics, researchers, lawyers, policy makers and practitioners from areas such as child protection, family law, community organisations and social welfare to discuss issues associated with child sexual abuse and the appropriate justice response and also to identify best practice, share knowledge and develop strategies to address the relevant issues.

Conference themes included children and the legal system, empowerment and protection of children, family law, the medical model, risk and protective factors and alternative models for prosecuting offenders.

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Conferences

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Justice Sally Brown, of the Family Court of Australia, gave the keynote address on the major themes and challenges facing the Family Court in relation to child protection and custody issues.

Other plenary speakers included Professor Freda Briggs, from the University of South Australia; Judge Hal Jackson from the District Court in Perth; Gillian Calvert, the New South Wales Commissioner for Children and Young People; Dr Christine Eastwood from the Queensland University of Technology and Professor Patrick Parkinson from the University of Sydney.

Inhalant Use and Disorder, Townsville, 7–8 July 2003

This was the first conference of its kind to be held in Australia. Conference participants included government policy advisers, academics, practitioners and community workers.

The keynote address was given by Major Brian Watters AO, Chair of the Australian National Council on Drugs. Other plenary speakers included Dr Toni Makkai, Research Director; Dr Peter D'Abbs an Associate Professor at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at James Cook University; Rachel Atkins, from the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service, and Stan Moor from the Australian Retailers Association.

After two days of discussion about issues surrounding inhalant misuse, including risk and protective factors, indigenous communities, health and welfare concerns, early intervention, policing, partnerships and the role of government, the conference closed with a panel session to discuss and

debate future challenges for inhalant use and disorder.

The panel was chaired by Dr Adam Graycar, Director.

Graffiti and Disorder: Local Government, Law Enforcement and Community Responses, Brisbane 18–19 August 2003

This AIC conference was held in conjunction with the Australian Local Government Association.

Keynote addresses were given by Dr Adam Graycar, Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology and Councillor Mike Montgomery, President of the Australian Local Government Association. Plenary speakers included Linda Lavarch MP,

Chair of the Graffiti Taskforce in Queensland; Dr Philip Fleming, Executive Director of the Aerosol Association of Australia and Superintendent David Darcy of the New South Wales Police Service.

Papers covering a large range of topics, which included law enforcement issues, youth culture perspectives, community perspectives and local government responses, were presented in the concurrent sessions.

Participants at the conference included police, community workers, academics, policy makers and representatives from all levels of government.

Remaining 2003 Conference: Juvenile Justice, Sydney 1–2 December 2003

Balance of 2003 short course schedule

Check the web site for updates <<http://www.aic.gov.au/training/schedule.html>>

October

8, 9, 10: Brisbane
Techniques for managing crime prevention projects

13,14: Perth
Restorative justice

16, 17: Perth
Creating safer communities

22: Sydney
Developing key performance indicators for crime prevention projects

23, 24: Melbourne
Restorative justice

23, 24: Sydney
Evaluating crime prevention projects

November

5, 6, 7: Sydney
Techniques for managing crime prevention projects

10, 11: Brisbane
Restorative justice

17, 18, 19: Perth
Techniques for managing crime prevention projects

24: Melbourne
Developing key performance indicators for crime prevention projects

25, 26: Melbourne
Evaluating crime prevention projects

December

1, 2, 3: Melbourne
Techniques for managing crime prevention projects

10: Brisbane
Developing key performance indicators for crime prevention projects

11, 12: Brisbane
Evaluating crime prevention projects

NB: Dates TBA for ID-related fraud prevention for managers and supervisors

Occasional seminars

Occasional Seminar, in conjunction with Crime Prevention Branch, Attorney-General's Department

Dr Holly Johnson, Chief of Research at the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Statistics Canada Statistics Canada's National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth*, 26 March 2003. Summary at <<http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/occasional/2003-03-johnson.html>>.

Occasional Seminar, in conjunction with Crime Prevention Branch, Attorney-General's Department

Dr Daniel Sansfacon, Deputy Director-General, International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, Canada, *Preventing Juvenile delinquency: from what works to how it works*, 26 March 2003. Summary at <<http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/occasional/2003-03-sansfacon.html>>.

Occasional Seminar, in conjunction with Australian Customs Service

Professor Geoffrey Pearson from Goldsmiths College, University of London, *Middle Market Drug Distribution: Middle and Upper Level Drug Dealing in the UK*, 2 April 2003. For a summary see <<http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/occasional/2003-03-pearson.html>>



From left: Dr Daniel Sansfacon, Dr Toni Makkai, Dr Adam Graycar, Dr Holly Johnson, Marie Segrave.



Dr Judy Putt, Dr Toni Makkai and Professor Geoffrey Pearson.

International visitors to the AIC

14 August 2003

Delegation of 30 senior government officials from Thailand Ministry of Justice.

15 August 2003

John Blackmore, Assistant Director in the Community & Environment Directorate, London Borough.

Your views on training

Locations of training by AIC in 2004

The AIC can most effectively deliver its training courses if we can identify from where the demand is coming. The following is a list of regional centres—including State capitals—around Australia. AIC would like you to identify, *obligation free*, where and when you would like to attend an AIC training course: also which ones. Using the results that are sent back, AIC will source venues and schedule training for 2004. This will considerably cut down on your travel and accommodation expenses.

Please photocopy, tick the appropriate boxes and then fax back to AIC on 02 6260 9218 by November 14, 2003.

When would you want to attend the training?

- ☐ first half of 2004 (until June 30) ☐ second half of 2004 (until November 30)

Which training course (s)?

(for more details, see <<http://www.aic.gov.au>> and click on Learning & Knowledge Development)

- ☐ ID-related fraud prevention training for managers and supervisors
☐ ID-related fraud prevention training for service and counter staff
☐ Creating safer communities
☐ Restorative justice
☐ Techniques for managing crime prevention projects
☐ Developing key performance indicators for crime prevention projects
☐ Evaluating crime prevention projects
☐ Knowledge management for crime prevention projects
☐ Problem solving for crime prevention projects
☐ I suggest that AIC develops the following course in [please tell us below]:

.....
.....
.....

Please complete the following details (obligation free):

Your name

Your organisation

.....

.....

Business address

.....

.....

Business contact number

Fax

E-mail

Indicate the nearest regional centre where you can attend training:

NSW

- ☐ Sydney ☐ Newcastle
☐ Wollongong ☐ Lismore
☐ Bathurst/Orange ☐ Port Macquarie
☐ Coffs Harbour ☐ Dubbo
☐ Tamworth ☐ Wagga Wagga
☐ Nowra/Bomaderry

NSW/VIC

- ☐ Albury-Wodonga

VICTORIA

- ☐ Melbourne ☐ Geelong
☐ Warrnambool ☐ Ballarat
☐ Bendigo ☐ Shepparton
☐ La Trobe Valley ☐ Mildura

QUEENSLAND

- ☐ Brisbane ☐ Sunshine Coast
☐ Bundaberg ☐ Hervey Bay
☐ Rockhampton ☐ Gladstone
☐ Mackay ☐ Townsville
☐ Cairns ☐ Toowoomba

QLD/NSW

- ☐ Gold Coast/Tweed

ACT/NSW

- ☐ Canberra/Queanbeyan

WA

- ☐ Perth ☐ Mandurah
☐ Bunbury ☐ Geraldton
☐ Kalgoorlie/Boulder

TASMANIA

- ☐ Hobart ☐ Launceston
☐ Burnie/Devonport

SA

- ☐ Adelaide ☐ Whyalla
☐ Mount Gambier ☐ Renmark
☐ Port Lincoln

NT

- ☐ Darwin ☐ Katherine
☐ Alice Springs