

Roundtables

Diverting young people from the criminal justice system: what works, what's promising?

(no. 79) 28 July 2003

Held at the AIC, this roundtable was co-hosted by the Crime Prevention Branch of the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department. The roundtable was a culmination of work commissioned by the Crime Prevention Branch investigating strategies for diverting young people from the criminal justice system, particularly mentoring and youth conferencing and diversion. It provided an opportunity to establish an agenda for pursuing the findings of the commissioned reports.

Diverting young people away from the criminal justice system has become a common and identified goal in all Australian states and territories in recent years, evidenced through the growing popularity and use of youth conferencing and police cautioning, as opposed to the more formal processes of the youth court. It is assumed that both juveniles and society at large will benefit more from strategies which divert youngsters away from and out of the juvenile justice system through being less expensive in the longer term and more effective than court and traditional punitive measures in encouraging rehabilitation. However, while this concept has led to early intervention strategies being devised and applied with vigour, it is essential for policymakers and society more generally to know whether these strategies actually achieve their goals and are effective in preventing young people from coming into further contact with the juvenile justice system.

There were 23 participants at the roundtable from a diverse range of fields, including police, university criminology departments, juvenile justice departments and other government bodies, and participants were drawn from across Australia. Many themes were explored during the course of the roundtable, culminating in many directions for useful future research.



Janine Chandler, Ria Percival, Brett Edwards and Dr Holly Johnson have recently joined the AIC. They are pictured here (L-R) with Dr Toni Makkai, AIC Acting Director (second from right).

AIC appointments

Brett Edwards, Deborah Blackburn, Dr Holly Johnson, Jacqui Joudo, Katalina Bradley, Rosa Ruiz, Janine Chandler, Dr Rob McCusker, Ria Percival, Dr Tony Krone, Dorothea Blak, Simon Brewster, Matthew Willis.

Departures

Kiah McGregor, Marie Segrave, Muzammil Ali, Lisa Collins, Leesa Morris, Lindy Schultz, Keenan Veraar and Stephen Bond have left the AIC.

Forthcoming AIC conference

Crime in Australia: international connections, to be held 29-30 November 2004 at Hilton on the Park in Melbourne. This conference will include people smuggling, drug trafficking, cybercrime, maritime crime and sea piracy, financial crime and money laundering, environmental crime, intellectual and property crime, violent crime, firearms, terrorism and its links to transnational crime.

ACT recidivist property offenders (no. 80) 15 August 2003

As part of the AIC's research on ACT recidivist property offenders for the ACT Department of Justice and Community Services (ACT JACS) a roundtable was held with key stakeholders to discuss the findings of the research study. Representatives from ACT JACS, ACT Australian Federal Police, ACT Corrections, ACT Juvenile Justice and the Chief Minister's Department attended the meeting.

The research was commissioned to evaluate a number of competing hypotheses that had been anecdotally provided as explanations for the significant drop in property offending in the ACT. These explanations were the heroin drought, the AFP's intelligence lead Operation Anchorage that was targeted at known property offenders, and changes to the ACT Bail Act.

There was considerable discussion over the results ranging from data quality issues through to implications of the work. There were some suggestions for further analyses that the researchers agreed to pursue before finalising the report.

Adolescent sexual offending

(no. 81) 13 November 2003

Held at the Department of Criminology, University of Melbourne, this roundtable was attended by researchers and practitioners involved in adolescent sexual offending programs from all jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand.

Discussion centred around the development of a research agenda which could inform both policy and practice. Research topics identified included: the process of therapeutic change, resilience/protective factors, effects of family/individual intervention, the implication of developmental phases and treatment type, group-based interventions, systems intervention/multidisciplinary teams, non-specialised interventions, the effect of removal from home, intensity/duration of intervention, and the effects on treatment providers.

ACT burglary reduction strategy

(no. 82) 21 November 2003

The AIC, in collaboration with the ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety presented the key findings of contemporary ACT research into burglary reduction. The purpose of this roundtable was to bring together key ACT stakeholders and encourage discussion on future directions in burglary reduction. Attendees included representatives from the Australian Federal Police, ACT Department of Corrective Services, ACT Urban Services, and ACT Housing. The outcomes of the roundtable have since been used to inform the development of the 2004 ACT Burglary Reduction Strategy.

DUMA technical workshop

(no. 83) 2-3 December 2003

The Queensland Police Service in conjunction with the AIC hosted the 2003 DUMA technical meeting. The main focus of the meeting was to provide a forum for discussing the ways in which the DUMA data was being utilised by each jurisdiction. Presentations using addendum data highlighted the usefulness of the

addendums to garner further information on specific issues. Delegates from some of the Police Services discussed the ways in which the DUMA data was being used at a strategic/policy level.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Australian Government Departments of Health and Ageing, Attorney Generals', Australian Customs Service and the AFP. Representatives from the Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australian, South Australian and Victorian Police Services were also present as were representatives from BOCSAR, OCSAR, CMC, PaLMS and the data collectors. Kiah McGregor and Lee Milner represented the AIC.

AIC conference

Juvenile justice: from the lessons of the past to a roadmap for the future

1-2 December 2003

Held in Sydney, in conjunction with the New South Wales Department of Juvenile Justice, the AIC hosted this very successful conference. The theme of the conference was based around learning from lessons and research of the past to successfully manage the future.

Dr Toni Makkai, Acting Director of the AIC, opened the conference. The opening address was delivered by The Hon Diane Beamer, Minister for Juvenile Justice in New South Wales. Professor James McGuire from the Department of Clinical Psychology at Liverpool University gave the keynote address. Other speakers from overseas included Judge Andrew Becroft, the Principal Youth Court Justice in Wellington, New Zealand, Dr Gabrielle Maxwell from Victoria University Wellington and Kim Pate, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies in Ontario Canada.

A panel session set the scene early in the conference by discussing juvenile justice issues from the perspective of the past present and future. Members of this panel included Dr Don Weatherburn from the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Associate Professor Christine Alder from the University of Melbourne and

Professor Rob White from the University of Tasmania.

After the final panel session in which major conference topics were discussed and analysed, Mr David Sherlock, the Director-General of the New South Wales Department of Juvenile Justice closed the conference. Copies of selected papers can be downloaded at <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/2003-juvenile>.

International visitors to the AIC

Maria Sampson, Asian Social Institute, Philippines, 16 September 2003

Delegation from Chinese Institute of Public Security, 30 September 2003

Dr Merly Khouw, Executive Director, Quest Research Pty Ltd, 25 September 2003

Steve Wilkes, Head of Burglary and Business Crime, Policing and Crime Reduction Group, Home Office UK, 8 October 2003

Professor Jane Ursel, University of Manitoba, Canada, 11 December 2003

Professor Paul Gendreau, University of New Brunswick at Saint John, Canada, 17 December 2003

Steven Webb, Head of Policing, Organised Crime Unit, Home Office, UK, 16 January 2004

Judge Tanaka, Court Registrar Ikeda, the Supreme Court of Japan and Mr Mamoru Nomura, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan, 9 March 2004

Parliamentary delegation from New Zealand Law and Order Select Committee, 10 March 2004

Professor Nakanome, Professor Shiibashi, Chuo University, Japan, Professor Tsutsumi, Professor Miyajima, Toin University, Japan, Mr Mamoru Nomura, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan, 11 March 2004

Australian Crime & Violence Prevention Awards

Winners of the 2003 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards were announced by Senator the Hon. Christopher Ellison, Minister for Justice and Customs and Senator for Western Australia on



Winners of the 2003 Australian crime and violence prevention awards, with Senator the Honourable Chris Ellison (third from the left) and Dr Toni Makkai (first from the left)

Tuesday, 14 October 2003. 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 Federal, state and territory initiative. They include monetary awards totalling \$130,000.

Details of the winning projects can be found at <http://www.aic.gov.au/avpa/2003.html>.

Interns

Two AIC research internships were granted in 2004. Elizabeth Watson from Griffith University and Neale Wilson from La Trobe University joined the AIC from 19 January to 13 February. Elizabeth worked with the Information services program, while Neale worked with the Sophisticated crime, regulation and business program.

Occasional seminars

Details of these seminars can be found at <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/occasional>

Using GIS to investigate spatio-temporal links between disorder, crime and the fear of crime by Bruce Doran, Australian National University, 22 January 2004

The failure of the legal system in Indonesian financial corruption cases by Merly Khouw, Executive Director, Quest Research Pty Ltd, 25 September 2003

Setting crime reduction targets for England and Wales, and planning to deliver them by Steve Wilkes, Head of Burglary and Business Crime (Policing and Crime Reduction Group), Home Office, United Kingdom, 8 October 2003

Do specialized courts work for child abuse cases? A Canadian experience by Jane Ursel, University of Manitoba, 11 December 2003

What works (and doesn't work) in reducing offending by Paul Gendreau, University Research Professor, University of New Brunswick at Saint John, Canada, 17 December 2003

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New research projects

National project on drink spiking

The AIC, on behalf of the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs and the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department, is undertaking research to identify where, when and how drink spiking occurs in Australia. A freecall victim hotline, now closed, obtained valuable, anonymous insights relating to victims and circumstances in which drink spiking incidents occur. This information along with a literature review of existing Australian and overseas research on drink spiking and associated criminal victimisation; secondary analysis of data from sources (such as

police and sexual assault centres); and discussions with key stakeholders will form the basis for this research. This work is intended to inform the development of strategies for improving awareness and education with key stakeholders (eg police, sexual assault workers, the liquor industry and hospitals) to enable quicker identification and subsequent treatment of victims. This is a cost-shared project between the states/territories and the Federal government, administered through the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department. Phase one of the project is scheduled to be completed at the end of April 2004.

Farm crime

As part of its research into farm crime, the AIC is currently analysing results from the third national farm crime survey. This third survey involved qualitative fieldwork including interviews with a wide range of community groups, crime prevention/stock squad officers and individual farmers in three rural areas. The interviews are aimed at evaluating their experiences with farm crime, their crime prevention strategies and the impact farm crime has had on their communities. This project is funded by the National Crime Prevention Program, Australian Government Attorney-General's Department. Results from the previous two surveys can be found at <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/>

[tandi235.html](http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi2/tandi266.html) and <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi2/tandi266.html>

Bushfire related arson

The AIC and the ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety have begun a major research project into bushfire arson. This research will attempt to count the number of bushfire arsons in Australia; build a knowledge base on bushfire arsonists to ascertain information on motive, modus operandi, psycho-social factors, as well as their views on effective message prevention and offender rehabilitation measures; and develop a methodology to measure the cost of arson. The project is funded by the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre and is due for completion in 2007.

The Australian component of the 2004 International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS)

Australia will again take part in the international crime victimisation survey. This survey gathers and analyses up-to-date statistical information on crime victimisation rates, public perception of crime, rates of reporting to the police and firearm ownership. It enables the identification of trends in victimisation rates over time (compared to the 1989, 1992 and 2000 surveys), comparison to other countries, trends in reporting rates and the prevalence

of firearm ownership. The project is funded by the National Crime Prevention Program, Australian Government Attorney-General's Department.

Recent AIC research on the costs of crime in Australia

The overall cost of crime in Australia amounts to nearly \$32 billion per year, which is nearly \$1,600 per person and five per cent of GDP. The total cost of homicide is \$930 million, and homicide carries the highest cost per victim, equalling about \$1.6 million. Assault costs \$1.4 billion per year, with an average of \$1,800 per assault. Sexual assault costs \$230 million overall, with an average cost of \$2,500 per incident. A clear message is that despite a relatively low number of incidents (compared to non-violent crime), violent offences account for a large proportion of the costs of crime in Australia. Burglary is also more costly than would be suggested by the proportion of offences it comprises. The total cost is \$2,410 million, or \$2,400 per burglary. The cost of robbery in Australia is \$600 million, with an average of \$3,600 per incident. Theft of vehicles costs \$880 million overall, with an average of \$6,000 for each vehicle stolen (the second highest incident cost after homicide). Incidents of shoplifting are numerous (52 per cent of all the crimes costed) but, as the average unit cost is relatively small, overall costs are less than for some other offences.

Incidents and costs of crime

