

New structure

In mid-2004, the AIC reorganised its program structure, and implemented new, more descriptive names for the programs. Sections are now known as:

- Public affairs;
- Corporate services;
- Information services; and
- Research services.

Research services now consists of four programs:

- Justice and crime analysis;
- Crime monitoring;
- Global, economic and electronic crime; and
- Crime reduction and review.

Australian crime and violence prevention awards

The 2004 Australian crime and violence prevention awards were held in November at Parliament House. This year's nominees represented the best and most promising crime prevention projects from around Australia. Senator the Hon. Christopher Ellison, Minister for Justice and Customs and Senator for Western Australia, presented the awards to the winners. Congratulations to all winners and entrants – the field this year was exceptionally innovative and competitive. Special thanks must go out to Kathy Mildren, who once again did a great job coordinating the awards. The three national award winners of \$10,000 were as follows.

Pathways to prevention (Qld)

This project promotes and sustains children's wellbeing through building a nurturing context for their development. It focuses on the transition to school in the most disadvantaged urban area of Queensland, and involves the integration of family support programs with pre-school and school-based programs in seven schools within a community development framework.

Crime Stoppers youth challenge (Tas)

This project is an enquiry-based competition for school students. They are invited to work in groups to explore their connections with the community, their own beliefs, motivations of others and also design creative and practical solutions to assist in reducing crime.

Glendonald Park improvement initiative (Vic)

The redevelopment of Glendonald Park is a community development project which commenced in 1999. The park forms a lineal 'spine' through Glendonald Estate, a neighbourhood that has a high concentration of public housing. The estate had a poor self-image and was also perceived as a threat to other people living nearby. As a direct result of the Glendonald community taking ownership and control of their own environment, and with the support of the local council, the area was substantially improved.

Details of all winning projects can be found on the AIC web site at: <http://www.aic.gov.au/avpa/2004.html>

Occasional seminars

The AIC hosts public seminars that are presented by visitors to the Institute

and cover a range of topics. Recent occasional seminars have included:

- *Responding to the changing nature of crime from local to transnational: the role of the National Institute of Justice in both the US and the international community in advancing criminal justice research and practice*, presented by Jay Albanese, 2 December 2004;
- *Calls to the police: communicating risks and needs*, presented by Susanne Karstedt, 30 June 2004;
- *Investigating sexual assault*, presented by Kim McKay, 28 April 2004;
- *Profiling the re-assimilation experiences of Australasian undercover police officers*, presented by Nicole French, 7 April 2004; and
- *Using GIS to investigate spatio-temporal links between disorder, crime and the fear of crime*, presented by Bruce J Doran, 22 January 2004.

The AIC web site contains an index of these and previous occasional seminars, with the full text of some talks available to download. See <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/occasional/>.



Senator Christopher Ellison (third from right) and Dr Toni Makkai (far right) with award winners at the 2004 Australian crime and violence prevention awards



Senator Christopher Ellison with Dr Toni Makkai, AIC director, at the Australian crime and violence prevention awards

AIC departures

The AIC would like to extend thanks and appreciation to the following staff members who have left us over the past year: Jo Sallybanks, Kate Charlton, Glen McDonald, Brett Edwards, Lee Milner and Cathie Rushforth.

New positions

Congratulations to Judy Putt, who has become the AIC's new research manager. We wish Judy all the best in her new position.

A warm welcome is also extended to Ben Miskin, who will be working in the JV Barry library.

New web design

The AIC web team has been hard at work designing the new AIC web site. The new look web site offers a much easier interface and a more colourful and professional aesthetic. It has been a great success, attracting about 28,000 hits per day. See <http://www.aic.gov.au>.

RPPs to go up on web

Previously, full access to recent titles in the AIC's Research and public policy series has not been available on the AIC web site. However, it is now possible to download for free the full text of RPPs from the web site, from the day of their release. Titles are accessible at <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/index.html>. Printed and bound hardcopies are also still available for purchase (see contact details on page 4).

Roundtables

As part of its ongoing exploration of issues of significance to public policy, the AIC holds regular roundtable discussions with key stakeholders and others able to contribute to the knowledge base. Recent roundtables have focused on the following topics.

Sexual assault roundtable (no. 84) 29 April 2004

The AIC and the Office of the Status of Women co-hosted a roundtable that was attended by researchers, criminal justice personnel and representatives of the victim support sector. The roundtable had

two objectives: the first was to present the findings of a study on prosecutorial decision-making in adult sexual assault cases. Two *Trends & issues* papers stemming from this research have recently been published: no. 288 (see <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi2/tandi288.html>) and no. 291 (see <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi2/tandi291.html>).

The second objective of the roundtable was to gain input into the research directions for the third year of the project. There was broad agreement among the participants on the value of a qualitative study that will address gaps in knowledge about how the objectives and decisions of sexual assault survivors match with the responses of criminal justice and other agencies. Other potential areas for research included a focus on systemic issues and on the needs of vulnerable groups, including Indigenous women and victims with disabilities and psychiatric problems.

People trafficking, current issues and future solutions: policy options for the UN and Australian Government (no. 85) 3 September 2004

The aim of this roundtable was to explore the current situation and emerging issues of people trafficking in Australia. The roundtable was attended by experts from many countries, including China, the Philippines and Cambodia, lending their expertise and experience to the discussion. The issues were considered in domestic, regional and international contexts, endeavouring to ascertain



AIC research analyst Rob McCusker (left) with Dr Andreas Schloenhardt at the AIC's Crime in Australia conference

people trafficking policy options for the UN and Australian governments. This roundtable was organised in conjunction with the Development Studies Network, Australian National University.

National study into fisheries crime: Australian Government agency perspectives
(no. 86) 6 September 2004

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has funded the AIC to research the extent of illegal/organised criminal activity in Australia's fishing industry. The purpose of this roundtable was to consult with stakeholders, whose views were sought on: what sectors of the fishing industry they believe are vulnerable to illegal/organised criminal activity; legislative weaknesses and strengths; operational weaknesses and strengths; and the level of inter-agency cooperation. These views will be incorporated into a stage one scoping paper, along with the findings from consultations with state-based stakeholders. The roundtable was organised with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

National armed robbery monitoring program roundtable
(no. 87) 10 September 2004

The AIC's National armed robbery monitoring program (NARMP) has been running for over one year. Data from the calendar year 2003 have now been analysed and the results discussed in a secure AIC web site and in a draft annual report. The AIC held a roundtable discussion to gather stakeholder feedback on the program, specifically regarding these products, to ensure that NARMP is meeting stakeholder requirements.

Operational officers and statistical staff from police services in all jurisdictions and staff from relevant national agencies were invited to the roundtable. Representatives from NSW, Victoria, the ACT, South Australia, the Australian Crime Commission, and the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department attended this one-day event. Roundtable participants engaged in lively discussion and numerous valuable suggestions were tabled. The task of developing and distributing a survey to statistical staff in each of the states and territories is one important action for the AIC arising from the day. Questions in the survey will canvass data collection and data extraction procedures, as well as the nature of the information contained in police recording systems. Results of the questionnaire will be used



AIC Crime in Australia conference, from left: Robert Cornall, Australian Government Attorney-General's Department; Dr Russell Smith, AIC; Neil Jensen, AUSTRAC; Dr Holly Johnson, AIC

to refine the content of the NARMP, to ensure that data extraction is as uniform as possible across all jurisdictions, and to produce analyses and discussion appropriate to law enforcement needs.

Drug use monitoring in Australia roundtable
(no. 88) 8–9 November 2004

The AIC hosted this roundtable, which served as a technical meeting for the DUMA project. Among the presentations were 'DUMA: the year in review', by Jenny Mouzos, which provided an overview of the major developments in the DUMA dataset and DUMA methods over the previous year. General information on the DUMA project can be obtained from the latest DUMA annual report (RPP no. 58; see <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/58/index.html>).

Carmen Schulte presented 'Results from the drug driving addenda', which encapsulated findings from a drug driving workshop hosted by the NRMA – ACT Road Safety Trust. There were five guest speakers at the workshop who represented research, health and law enforcement agencies, and covered a range of issues associated with drug driving. The overall message indicated a growing concern with the consequences of driving while under the influence of drugs. Although it was accepted that alcohol remains the major cause of road accidents, there is keen interest in building on existing research about drug driving (see <http://www.aic.gov.au/research/projects/0005.html>) to more comprehensively target certain groups and reduce the potential risks to drivers and others. The usefulness of such addendum data to the DUMA dataset was highlighted during the roundtable.

Conferences

From time to time the AIC hosts conferences focusing on a range of criminological issues.

Crime in Australia: international connections
Hilton on the Park, Melbourne
29–30 November 2004

This conference was intended as a means of exploring and communicating ideas and strategies about existing and emerging forms of crime. Crime in the 21st century is no longer a local issue. Many elements of crime in Australia are now increasingly linked across state/territory borders and to international criminal activities. While Australia is more secure than many countries, the changing trends in crime present new threats and new challenges.

This two-day conference examined existing and emerging forms of criminality, the impact on Australia and the links to transnational crime, as well as policy and practitioner responses. Speakers included Robert Cornall, Attorney-General's Department; Commissioner Mick Keelty, Australian Federal Police; Dr Don Weatherburn, Director, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research; and Professor Arie Freiberg from Monash University.

Conference papers can be accessed at <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/2004/>.

Bushfire arson

The AIC has continued its development of research on bushfire arson. After the devastating Canberra bushfires of January 2003, the problem of bushfire arson has drawn a lot of attention. This project, funded by the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) and conducted in conjunction with the ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety, aims to reduce the impact of deliberately lit fires in Australian bushland environments. The study will increase our knowledge of incidence and impacts of bushfire arson. A major focus of the study will be on the motives and profiles of bushfire arson offenders and their

methods of operation. Through a greater understanding of the phenomenon of bushfire arson the project will produce practical tools for those involved in investigating and preventing deliberately lit bushfires and managing offenders.

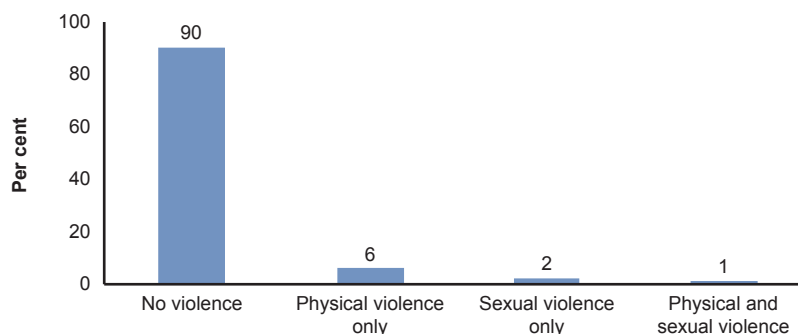
The AIC has released a new RPP, *Bushfire arson: a review of the literature* by Matthew Willis (available at <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/61/index.html>). This RPP explores the existing literature on bushfire arson and seeks to lay out a future path for research. Complementing this, the AIC and the Bushfire CRC have established *Bushfire arson bulletins*, a one-page monthly publication highlighting different aspects of bushfire arson. These are also available on the AIC web site, at <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/bfab/>.

AHTCC

The AIC enjoys a collaborative relationship with the Australian High Tech Crime Centre. The AHTCC is a national centre for coordinating the efforts of Australian law enforcement and crime researchers in combating complex technological crime. The exploitation of children for child pornography has been a topic of high priority for the AHTCC in the last year, with the AFP running Operation Auxin, a crackdown on internet child abuse images. This operation culminated in September, when around 400 search warrants were issued across Australia to apprehend users of child abuse imagery.

A research analyst at the AIC, Dr Tony Krone has conducted research on online child pornography offenders. A *Trends & issues* paper (no. 279) titled 'Typology of online child pornography offenders', has been released, with two other papers in publication. Tony's

Figure 1: Women's experiences of physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months



Source: Australian Institute of Criminology, IVAWS 2002-03 weighted data [computer file], n=6,677

research has been highlighted nationally with an appearance in October on the SBS discussion program, *Insight*, which brought together a wide range of experts to comment on the problem of online child abuse images. Tony also talked about the subject in an interview on ABC Radio National's *Perspective* program. Tony notes that these 'were great opportunities to get the information out there, to present the issues to a national audience.'

Dr Russell Smith has also recently published two *Trends & issues* papers in conjunction with the AHTCC: 'Impediments to the successful investigation of transnational high tech crime' (no. 285) and 'Criminal forfeiture and restriction-of-use orders in sentencing high tech offenders' (no. 286).

Facts and figures

In February 2004, the AIC released the annual *Facts and Figures* booklet, the best short summary available of Australia's yearly crime statistics. Packed with information and helpful figures, once again the handy book has proven

to be one of the AIC's most popular publications. The 2004 edition is well on its way.

IVAWS

The International violence against women survey (IVAWS) was conducted across Australia between December 2002 and June 2003. A total of 6,677 women aged between 18 and 69 years participated in the survey, and provided information on their experiences of physical and sexual violence. An RPP, *Women's experiences of male violence: findings from the Australian component of the International violence against women survey (IVAWS)* (no. 56) by Jenny Mouzos and Toni Makkai, presents results of the survey. This report describes the type of violence (including threats of violence) by current and former intimate male partners, other known males, such as relatives, friends and acquaintances, and strangers. Figure 1 (above) provides a snapshot of some of the findings. For the full report, go to <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/56/index.html>.

AIC contacts

GPO Box 2944
Canberra ACT 2601
Tel: +61 2 6260 9200
Fax: +61 2 6260 9201

<http://www.aic.gov.au>

Email

General: front.desk@aic.gov.au
Publications: aicpress@aic.gov.au
Library: jybarry@aic.gov.au
Conferences: conference@aic.gov.au

Publications

Publications can be purchased from the AIC with credit card authorisation or by cheque (use enclosed order form). To order any book titles in North America, contact:

Criminal Justice Press, PO Box 249, Monsey NY 10952, USA Tel: +1 914 354 9139 Fax: +1 914 354 9139
Email: cjpress109@aol.com Web site: <http://www.criminaljusticepress.com/>

If you wish to be alerted to new publications, or to receive the fortnightly Crime facts info or monthly AICrime reduction matters sheet, send your email address to aicpress@aic.gov.au