

## United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The United Nations held its 11th Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Bangkok, Thailand, from 18–25 April. The congress, which occurs every five years, focused this year on the following themes:

- effective measures to combat transnational organised crime;
- international cooperation against terrorism and the links between terrorism and other criminal activities;
- corruption;
- economic and financial crimes; and
- making standards work.

The congress also held six workshops:

1. enhancing international law enforcement cooperation, including extradition measures;
2. enhancing criminal justice reform, including restorative justice;
3. strategies and best practices for crime prevention, particularly in relation to urban crime and youth at risk;
4. measures to combat terrorism;
5. measures to combat economic crime, including money laundering; and
6. measures to combat computer-related crime.

Both the Attorney-General, the Hon. Philip Ruddock MP, and the Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator the Hon. Chris Ellison, delivered statements at the high-level segment of the congress. The Attorney-General spoke on terrorism, focusing upon counter-terrorism, international cooperation and human rights. Senator Ellison spoke on illicit drugs, money laundering, proceeds of crime, corruption, terrorism, people trafficking and international law enforcement cooperation. Senator Ellison also presented a keynote address to workshop 3.

Dr Toni Makkai, Director of the AIC, Rob McCusker, one of the AIC's research analysts, and Dr Andreas Schloenhardt, an associate expert of the AIC, attended the congress. Dr Makkai was a member of the official Australian Government delegation as well as the scientific rapporteur for workshop 5 (measures to



Senator Chris Ellison, Minister for Justice and Customs, addresses the UN congress.  
 Source: <http://www.un.org/events/11thcongress/photos.html>

combat economic crime, including money laundering). Dr Makkai was also a panellist at workshop 2 (enhancing criminal justice reform, including restorative justice). Rob McCusker was a panellist on workshop 1 (enhancing international law enforcement cooperation, including extradition measures) and presented a paper on law enforcement cooperation in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. Dr Schloenhardt was a panellist in the same workshop and presented a paper on extradition legislation and practice within Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. Rob McCusker was also able to visit the Anti-money laundering office in Bangkok for a detailed presentation on legislation, operational activities and prosecutions.

The UN congress was attended by approximately 3,700 delegates. The official documentation may be found at: [http://www.unodc.org/unodc/crime\\_congress\\_11/documents.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/crime_congress_11/documents.html).

## Research services

The objective of Research services is to conduct research on the extent, nature and prevention of crime in Australia in order to provide timely, policy-relevant advice to the Australian Government and other clients. The four research program

areas are Crime monitoring, Crime reduction and review, Global, economic and electronic crime, and Justice and crime analysis. New research projects for 2005 include:

- stage two of the NSW crime prevention program management model;
- use of video to record the evidence of adult sexual assault victims;
- analysis of ACT family violence intervention program data;
- serious taxation fraud;
- a NSW local crime prevention planning evaluation; and
- a WA responsible parenting initiative evaluation framework.

In recent months, Research services staff have been focused on preparing major reports on key activities: Drug use monitoring in Australia (DUMA) and the Australian component of the International crime victimisation survey (ICVS).

## Drug use monitoring in Australia

The 2004 annual report of DUMA was released in April 2005, number 65 in the AIC's Research and public policy series. Operating since 1999, and currently at seven sites across Australia, DUMA presents both self-report and urinalysis data from participating detainees for the calendar year. It provides an overview of the characteristics of the detainees at each site, including self-reported drug use, prior criminal behaviour and treatment history. DUMA data play an important role by informing national and local policies and programs aimed at reducing drug supply, demand and harm.

Key findings from the 2004 DUMA report include:

- a stabilisation in the number of detainees testing positive to methylamphetamine;
- a slight increase in the proportion of detainees testing positive to heroin in the Sydney sites but a decline or similar levels in other sites;
- almost one-third of detainees scored very high on a psychological distress scale; and
- of those detainees who used an illicit drug or alcohol in the past 12 months, over half said they were dependent on alcohol and other drugs.

The 2004 DUMA report can be found at <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/65/index.html>.

### International crime victimisation survey

The ICVS is an international project involving approximately 60 countries and is coordinated through the UN Office on drugs and crime. The AIC managed the Australian component of the 2004 ICVS, which included telephone interviews with approximately 7,000 people aged 16 or over. The ICVS is a general, but wide-ranging survey focusing on peoples' experiences with personal and household crimes, the impact of these crimes and whether they were reported to the police. The survey also measures public perceptions about personal safety. Crime victimisation surveys are an important complement to administrative data available through police and other criminal justice agencies. The results are useful to policy-makers and practitioners in law enforcement and crime prevention, as well as the general community.

The key findings of the report include:

- since 2000, a decline in the proportion of people experiencing crime; and
- since 2000, a decline in fear of crime.

The ICVS report was released in April 2005, and is available to download from the AIC web site at <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/64/index.html>. Key findings from the report are summarised in *Trends & issues* no. 298 at <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi2/tandi298.html>.

### New positions

A warm welcome is extended to the institute's new staff members including Jessica Anderson, Katie Gray and Michelle Murray in the research team, and Max Kwiatkowski in Information services.

### Information services

Information services has recently added new sections to the AIC web site on Indigenous justice, rural crime, cybercrime and transnational crime. The existing sections on drugs, local government crime prevention, young people and crime, older people and crime, and sport and crime have been revised substantially. These gateways to information about crime and criminal justice can be found at <http://www.aic.gov.au/topics>.

Information services now produces seven subject alerts for limited distribution covering crime prevention, cybercrime, drugs, evaluation, Indigenous justice, juvenile justice and people trafficking/smuggling. The alerts list new books, reports, journal articles, conference papers and web sites. There are between one and three alerts per month issued for each topic. If you would like to see a sample of the alerts, or would like to receive them, please contact [jvbarry@aic.gov.au](mailto:jvbarry@aic.gov.au).

### Interns

Over the summer of 2004–05, the AIC appointed six work experience interns. They undertook a range of tasks relating to armed robbery recidivism, water theft, future trends in local crime, Indigenous–police relations and bushfire arson, as well as work updating the drugs section of the AIC web site. The interns were:

- Sean Conaghty, an undergraduate in his final year of a Bachelor of Social Science (Justice) at the University of South Australia and a member of the SA police force;
- Kristi Cooper, a postgraduate student completing a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Sydney;
- David Hurdle, an undergraduate in his final year of a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University, and a member of the WA police service;

- Kathryn Neal, an undergraduate in her final year of a Bachelor of Social Science (Criminology) at the University of New South Wales;
- Jo Nikopoulos, an undergraduate in her final year of a Bachelor of Laws at Latrobe University, with a Masters of Applied Social Research at Monash University; and
- Lisa Rosevear, a postgraduate student completing a Doctor of Philosophy (Sociology) at the University of Tasmania.

### Conferences

#### Safety, crime and justice: from data to policy ABS House, Canberra, 6–7 June 2005

This conference, which is being held in conjunction with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, follows on from the Evaluation in crime and justice: trends and methods conference held in March 2003.

The keynote speaker is Mr Laurie Glanfield AM, Director-General of the NSW Attorney-General's Department, who is speaking on research, evaluation and policy in criminology. Other plenary speakers include Dr Dianne Heriot, Assistant Secretary in the Community Safety and Justice Branch of the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department, Mr Steve Larkin, a principal with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, and Dr Holly Johnson, a visiting fellow at the AIC.

Concurrent sessions include the following themes: improving the evidence base, program evaluation, implications for policy of new technologies research design and data quality, data limitations and jurisdictional data comparisons. Panel discussions will include: tracking offending through the criminal justice system, complexities, policies and issues, assessing data for research and

### Departure of Public affairs manager

It is with regret that we announce the departure of Leanne Huddy, manager of Public affairs. Leanne has been with the AIC for almost 12 years. Initially, Leanne worked as the acquisitions officer in the JV Barry library, and then became the reference and acquisitions librarian, a key position for the client service function of the institute.

Six years ago, Leanne took over the role of executive officer, Research. This position entailed providing executive support for the Director as well as the AIC's research program. Leanne also

undertook the demanding role of supervising the publications output of the Institute. Four years ago, Leanne's position was expanded to manager of the Research and dissemination team, more recently known as manager of Public affairs.

Leanne has been responsible for Ministerial office liaison and responding to media inquiries. Both of these roles can be particularly demanding, but Leanne's calm manner has always prevailed and ensured that any crises which may have developed were dealt with admirably.



Leanne Huddy, former manager, Public affairs

Thanks are extended to Leanne for the enormous contribution she has made to the AIC. She will be greatly missed. We wish Leanne well in her new position at the Australian Sports Commission.





AIC interns for 2004–05 (l–r): Sean Conaghty, Lisa Rosevear, Kristi Cooper, Kathryn Neal, David Hurdle and Jo Nikopoulos

developing processes for policy. The full program and registration form can be found at <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/2005-abs/>.

#### **Illicit drugs and development: critical issues for Asia and the Pacific National Museum of Australia, Canberra, 15–16 August 2005**

The AIC is participating in this conference which is being run by the Australian National University's Research School of Social Sciences. The symposium will provide the opportunity for an in-depth discussion on the relationship between illicit drugs and development, with a focus on the situation in the Asia-Pacific region. It will bring together internationally recognised development economists, planners, health professionals, legislators and criminal investigators, as well as international operational experts in drug production, drug trafficking and anti-trafficking to discuss the impact of illicit drugs on development. For further information, contact the Development Studies Network at the RSSS on 02 6125 8257.

#### **Delivering crime prevention: making the evidence work Carlton Crest Hotel, Sydney, 21–22 November 2005**

The AIC, in conjunction with the NSW Attorney-General's Department, is hosting this conference. The focus of the conference is on critically examining the role of evidence-based policy (EBP) approaches in the development and delivery of crime prevention policies and programs in Australia today. The different models for EBP programs will be assessed in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness in informing and improving practical crime prevention policy

and on-ground working. Barriers to the successful implementation of evidence-based initiatives will be reviewed, and possible solutions explored. Conference themes will include:

- how to turn research into practice;
- deciding how and when to use the different approaches to EBP in crime prevention practice;
- improving linkages between research, policy and practice;
- evaluation as a tool for organisational individual learning and change; and
- methods for disseminating and promoting the adoption of innovative practice.

The closing date for abstracts to present in concurrent session at the conference is 31 July 2005. More information can be found at <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/2005-cp/>.

#### **Occasional seminars**

The AIC invites experts to present public seminars on a range of topics. Recent seminars have included:

- The health of young people in custody in NSW, presented by Mark Allerton, 2 March 2005;
- A theory of offending, presented by John MacLeod, 22 March 2005; and
- Using data mining techniques to detect criminal networks, presented by John Zeleznikow, 6 April 2005.

Abstracts of these seminars are available at <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/occasional/>.

#### **Roundtables**

As part of its exploration of contemporary crimes that are of significance to public policy debate, the AIC holds roundtable

discussions with experts and stakeholders. The aim is to develop the knowledge base relating to these issues. Recent roundtables have focused on the following topics.

#### **Online child exploitation: a forum for Australian Government agencies (no. 89) 9 December 2004**

This roundtable sought to capture information and views from 14 Australian Government departments and agencies about their current understanding of the problem of online child exploitation, initiatives that are currently in place, and suggestions for finding a way forward. Those attending the roundtable were asked to consider:

- the best long-term and effective strategies to deal with online child abuse;
- the scope to improve coordination in Australian Government agencies' responses;
- pathways/obstacles to the regulation of online child pornography; and
- potential areas for legislative and policy reform.

A report was prepared for the participating agencies and contains a number of recommendations for further action.

#### **Bushfire arson (no. 94) 31 March to 1 April 2005**

Two roundtable meetings hosted by the AIC brought together bushfire researchers and practitioners from around Australia, highlighting the AIC's important role in bushfire arson research. This research, being conducted in partnership with the ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety (JaCS) and through the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (Bushfire CRC), aims to reduce the impact of deliberately lit bushfires in Australia. The bushfire arson project will greatly increase our understanding of the motives and activities of those who deliberately light bushfires and what can be done to reduce the impact of their potentially devastating offences.

During December 2004, Dr Toni Makkai and research analyst Matthew Willis, together with bushfire arson project partner Derek Jory of JaCS, facilitated a roundtable discussion for local stakeholders (no. 91). Representatives from the ACT Emergency Services Commission, the Rural Fire Service, Department of Urban Services and the Office for Youth, Children and Family Support participated and generated valuable discussion which will help shape directions and priorities in future bushfire arson research.

## Other recent roundtables

Other roundtables that have been held by the AIC recently have focused on:

- the International crime victim survey (no. 90) 13 December 2004;
- the impact on crime and violence of Indigenous service delivery: a forum for Australian Government agencies (no. 92) 22 February 2005; and
- future crime trends (no. 93) 23 March 2005.

## International visitors to the AIC

The AIC, as the national focus for the study of crime and criminal justice in Australia, continues to welcome visitors from around the world with whom we can share our knowledge and strengthen our links. Recent visitors have included:

- members of the Youth Justice Project Team, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Ireland, 2 March 2005;
- members of the Parliamentary Select Committee, House of Representatives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 4 March 2005; and
- a delegation from the Japanese Ministry of Justice, 19 March 2005.

## 2005 Board of management

The AIC's Board of Management met in Canberra on 7 April 2005. At the meeting, the composition of the Board for 2005 was confirmed. Current Board members are:

- Professor Richard Fox, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Law, Monash University (Chair);
- Dr Toni Makkai, Director, AIC;
- Ms Joanne Blackburn, First Assistant Secretary, Criminal Justice Division, Attorney-General's Department;



*AIC staff members Rob McCusker, Dr Denise Lievore and Dr Judy Putt, pictured with members of the Parliamentary Select Committee, House of Representatives, Malaysia, on their recent visit to Canberra*

- Mr Nigel Hadgkiss APM, Director, Building Industry Taskforce, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations;
- Mr Tim Keady, Chief Executive Officer, Department of Justice and Community Safety, ACT;
- Mr Norman Reaburn, Director, Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania;
- Ms Penny Armytage, Secretary, Department of Justice, Victoria; and
- Mr Terry Evans, Deputy Chief Executive, Attorney-General's Department and Department of Justice, South Australia.

## Criminology Research Council

In April the Criminology Research Council held its first meeting for 2005 at the AIC's offices in Canberra. Mr Laurie Glanfield AM, Director-General of the Attorney-General's Department of New South

Wales, was re-elected as Chair of the Council.

At the first meeting of each year, the Council considers new areas of policy-relevant research that it can support through consultancies. Three recently approved consultancies include a review of the use of multiple social services among chronically offending youth; an attempt to optimise juror satisfaction by identifying the most effective procedures for managing juries in criminal trials; and an examination of the ways Australian criminal justice system personnel identify and respond to mental disorders among persons suspected of and convicted of crimes.

Two other consultancies are nearing completion: one on the use of specialty courts throughout Australia, and another that assesses the impact of research funded by the Council. Further details on the CRC are available at the CRC web site: <http://www.aic.gov.au/crc/>.

## AIC contacts

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

<http://www.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](mailto: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](mailto:aicpress@aic.gov.au)

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