

United Nations Commission on Crime and Criminal Justice

The 15th session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice met in Vienna, Austria from 24–28 April 2006. Hosted by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Crime Commission was established in 1992 and serves as the primary policy making body on crime issues in the UN system.

Priority areas for the Commission are:

- international action to combat national and transnational crime, including organised crime, economic crime and money laundering
- promoting the role of criminal law in protecting the environment
- crime prevention in urban areas, including juvenile crime and violence
- improving the efficiency and fairness of criminal justice administration systems.

The Institute was represented at the session by the Director, Toni Makkai who attended as a member of the Australian delegation along with Dr Dianne Heriot (Assistant Secretary and AIC Board member) and Kate Tubridy and Camille Goodman from the Attorney-General's Department. The UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Program network, of which the AIC is a member, organised a workshop during the meeting on maximising the effectiveness of technical assistance provided to member

states in crime prevention and criminal justice. The purpose of the workshop was to help inform member states about key issues in providing technical assistance. During the meetings Dr Makkai also gave a presentation on the latest results from the Institute's Drug Use Monitoring in Australia project. These data are utilised in the UN's Global Report on Drugs.

Meetings were also held by the Director with various UN officials on anti-money laundering, corruption, and the international crime victimisation survey. A detailed briefing on the development of specialty courts in Australia was provided to the Senior Legal Adviser to UNODC. Discussions were also held with the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime concerning the sixth annual colloquium to be hosted by Senator the Honourable Chris Ellison, Minister for Justice and Customs, in Canberra on 14–15 September 2006 (see <http://colloquium2006.info>). Discussions were held with Bob Brown, Director of the Corrections Programme at The International Centre For Criminal Law Reform & Criminal Justice Policy (University of British Columbia) about the Institute participating in an international study focused on better understanding why offenders return to prison. Bob Brown presented a seminar on the proposed study at the Institute on 10 July 2006.

International Centre for the Prevention of Crime annual colloquium, 2006

Canberra has been selected as the host city for the 2006 International Centre for the Prevention of Crime annual colloquium. The Australian Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Chris Ellison, will host the event on 14–15 September 2006.

The colloquium plays an important role in facilitating informal exchanges among countries, agencies and organisations on developments in crime prevention.

Further information is available at <http://colloquium2006.info>

AIC website turns 10

June 2006 is the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the AIC website. From its inception, the site has had the dual purpose of providing information to the world about the AIC and links to good quality web content about crime and criminal justice provided by other suppliers. From its four topic areas in 1998, the site has grown to now provide information on more than 40 topics, ranging from arson to young people and crime.

Forthcoming conference

Family violence, drug and alcohol use in remote communities, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Darwin 18 August 2006. This conference will explore the contributing factors to family violence in remote communities, and discuss some appropriate interventions.

More details at <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/2006-familyViolence>



Visiting research fellow

Douglas Tang has been on a one-year Public Management Masters programme at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore since January 2006.

He was attached to the Australian Institute of Criminology for a month as a visiting research fellow, doing his policy attachment work researching cybercrime and cyber terrorism. While at the AIC Douglas presented a seminar that provided an overview of Singapore's Infocomm Security Masterplan.

Criminology Research Council activities

On 6 April 2006, Laurie Glanfield AM, Director-General of the Attorney General's Department of New South Wales, was again elected as CRC Chairman. CRC Administrator Kathy Mildren resigned on 27 January 2006, and has been replaced in that role by Lyndal Spear.

The Council has considered 45 applications for research funding since November 2005, and has approved the following three projects:

- Research on adolescent stalking, examining offence characteristics and effectiveness of criminal justice interventions (\$66,803 awarded to Dr Teresa Flower, Dr Rosemary Purcell and Professor Paul Mullen)
- A study examining the impact of interpersonal violence victimisation on mental health (\$90,249 awarded to Dr Lynn Meuleners, Associate Professor Andy Lee and Delia Hendrie)
- Parents as prisoners: maintaining the parent-child relationship (\$47,265 awarded to Dr Rosemary Sheehan and Gregory Levine).

The Council has also awarded a consultancy worth \$109,400 to a 12 month study examining the attitudes and beliefs of empanelled and potential jurors towards their role as jurors and to identify the most effective procedures for the management of juries in criminal trials. The research began in May 2005 in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

Among the recently completed research projects funded by the CRC are:

- A study of operational performance reviews in Queensland
- A study of morbidity in Western Australian prisoners after release from prison
- An investigation into the effective and ethical interviewing of suspected sex offenders.

The Council held its biennial strategic planning meeting in April 2006, at which Council members met with senior academic researchers and policy analysts from state and territory criminal justice agencies. The meeting discussed views which will shape future research agendas.

National Community Crime Prevention Programme research partnership

The National Community Crime Prevention Programme (NCCPP) is an Australian Government grants programme. The Australian Government has committed \$64 million to the NCCPP to provide funding for grass roots projects designed to enhance community safety by preventing or reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, improving community safety and security, and reducing the fear of crime.

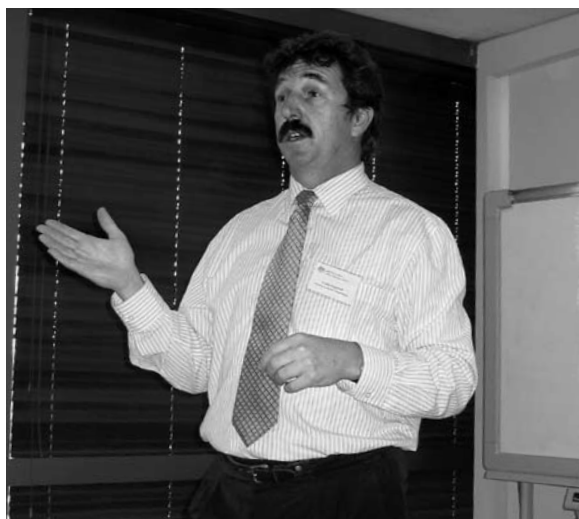
The AIC is currently providing high level technical support to the NCCPP in relation to relevant research on evaluation and crime prevention issues. As part of this partnership the AIC is conducting a series

of workshops targeting specific areas and community groups identified by the NCCPP. In November 2005, the first in this series of workshops was conducted in Western Sydney providing training for Indigenous community organisations in the area to build their capacity to undertake crime prevention planning in order to assist them in applying for NCCPP grants.

In May 2006, two workshops were conducted to help build crime prevention planning capacity among stakeholders in Victoria. The workshops targeted local government community safety officers, Indigenous community and legal service

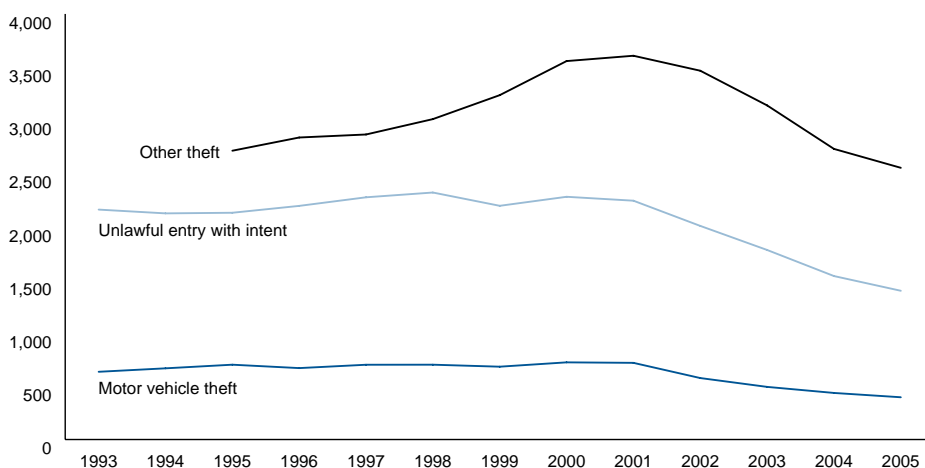
representatives, police and other community members with crime prevention roles. The workshops were conducted by Dr Judy Putt and Dr Julia Tresidder from the AIC in partnership with NCCPP representatives. Further workshops are being planned for later this year.

Information about crime prevention planning and evaluation specifically prepared for the NCCPP by the AIC is available on the Attorney-General's website at <http://www.crimeprevention.gov.au>. This website also contains more details on the NCCPP grants.



Craig Kentwell, of the Attorney-General's Department's Community Crime Prevention Section, addresses participants at the Melbourne workshop.

Trends in recorded property crime



The figure above is taken from Crime Facts Info no.124, and shows trends in recorded property crime from 1993 to 2005. Crime Facts Info provide topical excerpts from recent research, and are available online and through the AIC's emailing service (mail to: front.desk@aic.gov.au).

Drug Use Monitoring in Australia – two new sites

In 2006, the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program begins its eighth year of collection and remains one of the Australian Institute of Criminology's major projects. In 2005, there were seven DUMA sites across Australia: at Bankstown and Parramatta in New South Wales; Brisbane and Southport in Queensland; Adelaide and Elizabeth in South Australia; and East Perth in Western Australia. In 2006, the DUMA project was expanded to include two new sites – Darwin and Melbourne.

At the end of the first 2006 quarter, the two new sites had returned some encouraging results. The Darwin site, unlike the other eight sites, incorporated an addendum specifically relating to alcohol consumption patterns. This addendum proved very successful, with other sites now interested in running a similar addendum.

The 2005 annual report on DUMA is due for release shortly.

Discussing armed robbery

Key police from Australian jurisdictions were recently invited to take part in a roundtable discussion at the AIC, to focus on the National Armed Robbery Monitoring Program (NARMP).

This roundtable was timed to coincide with the completion of the second year of data collection, and provided a forum in which we could gather stakeholder input on the way the NARMP is compiled and the type of material it generates.

Roundtables such as this allow a valuable opportunity to discuss issues associated with the program. For example, a previous NARMP roundtable enabled stakeholders to discuss and decide that an expanded set of NARMP information should be gathered. The extra information subsequently provided has allowed us to undertake more detailed analyses of armed robbery, which in turn has the potential to improve our understanding of this crime. Results are available in the 2004 NARMP report at <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/69>

Roundtables

The AIC holds roundtable discussions with policy makers and practitioners to explore issues of significance in the policy debate. The most recent discussions focused on the following topics:

- Clandestine drug laboratory site remediation (31 March)
- Reintegration of Indigenous offenders (28 April)
- Evidentiary issues in high tech crime (19 May)
- Criminal justice responses to sexual assault (23 May)
- Future directions in high tech crime (26 May)
- Court responses to Indigenous and CALD victims/survivors of sexual violence (29 May)
- Family Violence Intervention Project ACT (2 June)

Occasional seminars

The AIC regularly invites experts to present seminars on various issues in their field. Recent seminars have included:

- **Suspension, revocation and recall of conditional release: proposed survey to identify trends and best practices** – Bob Brown, International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, Vancouver, Canada, Monday 10 July 2006

- **Women defendants in court** –

Judge Peggy Fulton Hora (Ret), Superior Court of California, 15 June 2006

- **Singapore's Infocomm Security Masterplan** – Douglas Tang, Visiting Fellow from Singapore, 30 May 2006

- **WA's Responsible Parenting Initiative: applying social contracts** – Hilary MacWilliam, Western Australian Office of Crime Prevention, 3 May 2006

Seminar on the WA Responsible Parenting Initiative

In May 2006, Hilary MacWilliam, Principal Policy Officer from the Western Australian Office of Crime Prevention, presented an occasional seminar on applying social contracts to parents of children who are identified by referring agencies as engaging in crime or antisocial behaviour.

Western Australia's Responsible Parenting Initiative (RPI) is designed to assist the parents of referred children to improve their parenting skills. The initiative is underpinned by legislation enabling some government departments to apply to the Children's Court for a Responsible Parenting Order if parents are unwilling to engage voluntarily with such assistance. It has been a controversial initiative, particularly in relation to the legislative component.

The seminar raised the debate about the role government should take in ensuring families function well and children achieve their full potential. Some of the key questions raised by initiatives such as the RPI include:

- to what extent can parents be held accountable for their children's behaviour?
- to what extent, and at what point, should government intervene to ensure individuals meet their social and parental responsibilities?
- to what extent is government responsible for ensuring there are supports in place to make this happen?

The rationale for the WA RPI is underpinned by research that shows that parents who monitor their children, both by direct supervision and through having an awareness of their child's activities, are less likely to have children who engage in delinquent behaviour. Parents can already be held legally responsible for their child's actions, and public opinion research shows that the public is supportive of the concept of parental responsibility for children's actions. This initiative seeks to extend the powers of government to mandate parents to get help before child protection issues arise. The AIC has been involved in evaluating the early implementation of this initiative.

Major research projects

Two major research projects being undertaken during 2006 include a national project on the recidivism of Indigenous prisoners, which is being funded by state, territory and New Zealand corrective services. The other project, funded by the Attorney-General's Department, is examining intellectual property crime.

Reintegrating Indigenous offenders: recidivism amongst Indigenous Australians who have been imprisoned

This project aims to identify whether there are patterns of offending and particular demographic characteristics that are linked to recidivism among the population of Indigenous males imprisoned for violent offences, and if so, whether formal interventions designed to stop reoffending and promote reintegration have led to positive outcomes for this group. Using case studies and interviews, and with contributions from all state and territory jurisdictions, the project will seek to understand the criminal career paths of Indigenous recidivist offenders and their participation in programs in prison and after release.

Intellectual property crime and enforcement in Australia

This project will identify the kinds, extent and impact of intellectual property (IP) crime in Australia through interviews with enforcement agencies and IP industry stakeholders. The research will produce a current estimate of IP piracy and counterfeiting in Australia, and assess the adequacy of current responses.

Recent publications

Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice

(<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/index.html>)

- **No. 308:** Transnational crime in the Pacific Islands: real or apparent danger?
- **No. 309:** Deaths in custody in Australia 1990–2004
- **No. 310:** Remand in custody: critical factors and key issues
- **No. 311:** Impediments to the measurement of road violence
- **No. 312:** Weapons, drugs and crime: the Australian experience
- **No. 313:** The impact of operational performance reviews on reported crime in Queensland
- **No. 314:** Problem solving for crime prevention
- **No. 315:** Residential placement of intra-familial sex offenders
- **No. 316:** The murder of overseas visitors in Australia
- **No. 317:** Specialty courts: current issues and future prospects

Crime Facts Info

(<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/cfi>)

- **No. 117:** Expenditure on justice by Australian governments
- **No. 118:** Experiences of neglect and abuse amongst juvenile detainees
- **No. 119:** Farm crime in Australia
- **No. 120:** Perception of crime trends in Australia
- **No. 121:** Trends in illicit drug use in Australia

- **No. 122:** Trends in rates of victimisation: household crime
- **No. 123:** Global software piracy
- **No. 124:** Trends in recorded property crime
- **No. 125:** Juvenile justice supervision in Australia
- **No. 126:** Trends in recorded robbery

AICrime Reduction Matters

(<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/crm>)

- **No. 43:** Mentoring and crime prevention: what is good practice?
- **No. 44:** Wilderness programs and boot camps – are they effective?
- **No. 45:** Reducing intellectual property crime
- **No. 46:** Risk and fear of fraud among older people
- **No. 47:** Evaluation: data linkage issues

BushFIRE Arson Bulletin

(<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/bfab>)

- **No. 30:** Firesetting behaviour: applying the dynamic behavioural model
- **No. 31:** Bushfire arson prevention: a community-centred approach in Western Australia
- **No. 32:** Consequences of bushfire arson: part 1: physical impact and economic considerations
- **No. 33:** Consequences of bushfire arson: part 2: environmental considerations

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Publications

Publications can be downloaded from the AIC website or 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 **Website:** <http://www.criminaljusticepress.com/>

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