

New funding

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has received \$7.8 million from the Australian Government over the next four years to establish research programs into regional trafficking trends and anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing, and to continue the expansion of the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program to new sites in Victoria and the Northern Territory.

Human trafficking in the Asia-Pacific region

The AIC is establishing a four year research program to monitor trends in human trafficking in the Asia-Pacific region, assess the likely impact of these trends upon Australia, and document emerging responses – including examples of good practice. The research is intended to synthesise lessons learned from international and Australian experience about barriers and good practice responses to:

- detecting and accurately identifying victims
- effectively investigating and prosecuting offences
- ensuring positive outcomes for victims.

Research on trafficking in the Asia-Pacific region is fragmented, with a concentration of studies in the Mekong area and on trafficking of women for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Less is known about trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation, and very little is known about the situation in the Pacific.

The AIC will capitalise on existing linkages with Australian Government law enforcement agencies, research institutes in the region, nongovernment organisations, and UN agencies to access a wide range of sources and data to assist in building a picture of activities and trends. A particular focus will be on responses to human trafficking. The research program will include a data monitoring component and targeted research on selected issues.

Anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing research

Funded with more than \$3.5 million over the next four years, intensive research will be conducted to monitor trends in money laundering and the financing of terrorism, with a view to evaluating how governments and private sector organisations are working to control risks in this area. The four year monitoring program will examine regulatory activities around the world to determine good practice initiatives for use

in Australia. The research will be carried out in close consultation with Australia's financial regulator, AUSTRAC. In addition, specific research sub-projects will be conducted each year. These will include an examination of the designated entities required to report financial transactions to AUSTRAC, the use of alternative remittance systems in Australia and overseas, and the use of bulk cash smuggling to avoid regulatory controls.

Two new DUMA collection sites

The AIC will receive funding over the next four years as part of the *Tough on Drugs* strategy to continue the two DUMA sites established at Footscray in Victoria and Darwin in the Northern Territory in 2006. Both sites were funded under the *Crimes (Proceeds of Crime) Act 2002* (Cth) on a trial basis for one year and demonstrated differences in illicit drug markets across Australia, as well as contributing to the first comprehensive national picture of the link between illicit drugs and crime in Australia. \$1.9 million will be provided over the next four years. The DUMA program has been collecting data since 1999 on the drug use and offending characteristics of persons detained by the police. It provides valuable information on the changing patterns and trends in illicit drug use in Australia.

Building refurbishment

AIC research staff will be temporarily relocated to alternative premises from September to Christmas to allow security and refurbishment works to be undertaken on the Institute's Griffith premises. The Institute apologises in advance for any disruption of services that may occur during this process.



New staff standing with AIC Director Toni Makkai are (left to right): David Rees, Jack Dearden, Kiah McGregor, Julie Walters, and Jane Grace. Not present are Matthew Willis, Julia Tressider and Penny Smyth.

Forthcoming conferences

The AIC will co-host a conference with the Australian Crime Prevention Council and the Townsville City Council in Townsville on 18–19 October 2007 entitled **Improving community safety: lessons from the country and the city**.

The keynote address will be given by Fuimaono Tuiasau from the Crime Prevention Unit, Ministry of Justice, Tahu o te Ture in New Zealand. Other speakers include:

- University of Tasmania's Professor Rob White discussing issues surrounding environmental harm, ecological justice and crime prevention
- Peter Homel from the AIC who will speak on the social marketing approach to community education and its application to crime prevention
- Dr Gary Coventry from James Cook University on prisoner reintegration
- Professor Freda Briggs from the University of South Australia who will address the challenges surrounding child protection.

Concurrent sessions will focus on crime and violence prevention, interventions for young people, women's safety, community development, policing, partnerships, crime prevention through environmental design and local government and crime control. A workshop aimed at providing a crime prevention toolkit for practitioners will be led by AIC research staff on both days.

To register online see: <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/2007-RegionalComSafety/>

The AIC, in conjunction with the Victorian Safe Communities Network, will host a conference entitled **Young people, crime and community safety: engagement and early intervention** in Melbourne on 25–26 February 2008. This conference will explore issues associated with young people who are disproportionately involved in risk-taking, antisocial behaviours and other activities which compromise their safety and that of others. Abstracts are invited for papers on the following themes: crime and violence, integrating health and community safety, alcohol and other drugs, emergency management, and programs for young people. The closing date for abstracts is 31 August 2007. Further information will be available at: <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/2008-YoungPeople/>

Recent workshops

Crime prevention The AIC and the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department recently conducted two workshops in Darwin and Alice Springs as part of the National Community Crime Prevention Programme (NCCPP). These workshops were designed to raise awareness within local communities of NCCPP funding for crime prevention projects, and to provide advice on the application process.

Both workshops were well attended and relevant to the agencies that may apply for grants, and their representatives who can inform local communities about the grants and the application process. Attendees included representatives from the Northern Territory (NT) Office of Crime Prevention, NT police, local government and a number of nongovernment organisations.

In addition to information on NCCPP, the AIC also gave a presentation on practical tips for planning and evaluating crime prevention projects, and those in attendance participated in activities designed to assist them in developing a project. The timing of the workshops was planned to coincide with round five of the NCCPP, which closed on 28 June. The next workshop is planned for Queensland in late 2007.

Diversion The AIC recently presented in several diversion forums held in the Northern Territory at the request of the NT Government. The presentation *Diversion in Australia: national overview* was given at the three court diversion forums held in Darwin and Alice Springs. The purpose of the forums was to discuss diversion in relation to two NT initiatives: the CREDIT NT program and the Alcohol Court.

The role of the AIC was to discuss the background, aims and development of diversion in Australia, and issues such as net-widening and the challenges presented by special needs groups. The presentations provided a snapshot of programs operating across the country, and findings of evaluations, and discussed good practice principles for diversion initiatives.

The forums were well received, with attendees including magistrates, defence lawyers, prosecutors, police and treatment program personnel, representatives from various government agencies including the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, and others involved with diversion activities in the Territory.

Policing illicit drugs Organised by the Queensland Police Service's Drug and Alcohol Coordination Unit, a two day workshop was held on policing drugs in rural and remote Queensland, on 1–2 May 2007 in Cairns. Police from the Rockhampton, Mt Isa and Cairns districts participated in the workshop, with the AIC's Dr Judy Putt facilitating discussion and assisting with the development of plans to address substance abuse.

Also present were Dr Alan Clough from James Cook University, Jan Robertson from a Cairns-based Indigenous health service, and Scott Mitchell from the Northern Territory Police. A national workshop funded by the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund and a NT workshop are planned for late August in Alice Springs. For more information see: <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/other/2006-ndlerfmono18.html>

Fraud against the Australian Government

In October 2006, the AIC took responsibility for fraud reporting by Australian Government agencies. An online survey is available for agencies to complete by the end of September.

For 2007–08 the AIC plans to change the surveying process to: establish technical and strategic advisory groups | improve the clarity and definitions in the questionnaire | improve flow of information between, and to, reporting agencies.

More information about reporting fraud in the government sector can be found on the AIC website at <http://www.aic.gov.au/research/projects/0134.html>

New releases

2006 DUMA annual report

The 2006 DUMA annual report was released by the Minister for Justice and Customs, the Hon. David Johnston, on 18 June at Parliament House. The report had a number of new additions to the data normally published, including results from the two new DUMA sites of Footscray and Darwin. Results from all addenda, including the new motives addendum, were also included in the 2006 annual report.

Some of the key results include:

- Cannabis remains the most commonly detected drug among DUMA detainees with 55 percent of males and 53 percent of females testing positive.
- Only nine percent of males and 17 percent of females tested positive to heroin in 2006.
- Methylamphetamine use has continued to remain stable with 23 percent of males and 37 percent of females testing positive.

The DUMA team – Dr Jenny Mouzos, Lance Smith, Natalie Hind and Kerry Adams – have worked hard all year to produce this successful report, the eighth since the program began in 1999.

NHMP annual report

The AIC has this month released the 2005–06 annual report of the National Homicide Monitoring Program, now in its 17th year of data collection.

This latest report contains information on the circumstances and characteristics of homicide over the 2005–06 year, along with jurisdictional breakdowns for comparison and longer term trend data. For more information on the NHMP, visit the program website: <http://www.aic.gov.au/research/projects/0001-docs.html>

United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice



The Australian delegation to the 16th session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (left to right): Scott Wilson of the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department (AGD), AIC Director Dr Toni Makkai, Nicola Rosenblum of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Anthony Coles, also of AGD.

The 16th session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice met in Vienna, Austria from 23–27 April 2007. Hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Commission was established in 1992 and is the primary policy making body on crime issues in the UN system. The principal theme for this session was crime prevention in urban areas, including juvenile crime and violence – one of the four priorities mandated for the Commission at its establishment.

The three other priorities are:

- international action to combat national and transnational crime
- promoting the role of criminal law in protecting the environment

- improving the efficiency and fairness of criminal justice administration systems.

The AIC's Director, Dr Toni Makkai, attended as a member of the Australian delegation. The UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, of which the AIC is a member, organised a workshop on successful crime reduction and prevention strategies in the urban context. The aim of the workshop was to take advantage of the global expertise of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network Institutes for the benefit of member states. During the meetings Dr Makkai also gave a presentation on prisoner reintegration and post-release support and supervision.

Meetings were also held with the UNODC office and Australian Embassy officials in Bangkok.

Investment in IT

A new online survey tool developed by Australian Survey Research, combined with a new secure website, now allows the AIC to host and run secure surveys and ensure the privacy and integrity of data.

The AIC has also installed Space Time Research's SuperSTAR web data analysis software. This enables users to manipulate and analyse quantitative data at different aggregation levels. It will provide the means for statistical, analytical and multi-format visualisation, simple ad hoc reporting and geospatial analysis. The DUMA dataset is the first to use the new analyser and elements of the dataset will soon be available through the secure website to participating agencies. Over the longer term the AIC will use the tool to publish other datasets to the web and provide graduated access from the general public to specialist users.

Recent publications

Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice

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

- **no. 333:** Zombies and botnets
- **no. 334:** The identification of mental disorders in the criminal justice system
- **no. 335:** Juvenile arson intervention programs in Australia
- **no. 336:** Benzodiazepine use and harms among police detainees in Australia
- **no. 337:** Partner violence among a sample of police detainees
- **no. 338:** Human trafficking in Australia: a research challenge
- **no. 339:** Pre-court diversion in the Northern Territory: impact on juvenile reoffending

Research and public policy

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

- **no. 74:** Criminal trials in Australia: trial listing outcomes
- **no. 75:** Drug use monitoring in Australia: 2006 annual report on drug use among police detainees

- **no. 77:** Homicide in Australia: 2005–06 National Homicide Monitoring Program annual report

Crime Facts Info

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

- **no. 145:** Australian firearm thefts, 2004–05
- **no. 146:** Criminal trials: time to completion
- **no. 147:** Prisoners in Australia, 1996–06
- **no. 148:** Underground markets in stolen digital information
- **no. 149:** Older Australians in prison
- **no. 150:** Robbery victimisation
- **no. 151:** Drug use among police detainees across Australia
- **no. 152:** Reason for not buying drugs
- **no. 153:** Homicide incidents in Australia

AI Crime Reduction Matters

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

- **no. 56:** Protecting personal identity
- **no. 57:** Preventing farm crime

- **no. 58:** Is notification of sex offenders in local communities effective?

- **no. 59:** Cyber bullying: issues for policy makers

BushFIRE Arson Bulletin

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

- **no. 42:** People and bushfires: not just a bush problem?
- **no. 43:** People and bushfires: situational crime prevention and bushfire arson
- **no. 44:** People and bushfires: factors affecting fire frequency
- **no. 45:** Are arsonists repeat offenders?
- **no. 46:** Reoffending arsonists in NSW

High tech crime briefs

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

- **no. 14:** New methods of transferring value electronically
- **no. 16:** Money mules

Occasional seminars

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

- **Therapeutic and criminal justice approaches to providing HIV/AIDS services to injecting drug users, prisoners and human trafficking victims.** Paul Williams, HIV/AIDS Unit, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 11 April 2007.
- **Why is it so hard for research to inform the policy process and government decision making?** Scott Prasser, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Business, University of the Sunshine Coast, 9 May 2007.

Criminology Research Council grants

The 2007 round of Criminology Research Grants is now open for submissions. Grants are to support research on the causes, correction and prevention of criminal behaviour, and related matters. The closing date for submissions is 24 August 2007. Further information regarding the application kit can be found at <http://www.aic.gov.au/crc/applications/>.

AIC contacts

GPO Box 2944, Canberra ACT 2601

Tel +61 2 6260 9200

Fax +61 2 6260 9201

Email General/publications:
front.desk@aic.gov.au

Library:
jvbarry@aic.gov.au

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). | If you wish to be alerted to new publications, or to receive the fortnightly *Crime facts info* or monthly *AI Crime reduction matters* sheet, send your email address to **front.desk@aic.gov.au**

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