

International Centre for the Prevention of Crime 6th annual colloquium, Canberra, 14–15 September, 2006

Communities in Action for Crime Prevention, the 6th annual colloquium of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), was held at the National Museum of Australia on 14–15 September.

Hosted by the Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Chris Ellison, the colloquium drew together practitioners, professionals and academics involved in the development of community programs for reducing crime. Projects and groups represented ranged from school and community-based groups to organisations set up to address issues such as alcohol and drug related problems, homelessness, vandalism, unlicensed driving or involvement in other factors contributing to antisocial behaviour. Keynote speakers included Dr Sue Gordon AM, Chair of the National Indigenous Council, Emeritus Professor W G (Kit) Carson, and Big hART Director, Scott Rankin.

Dr Sue Gordon described communities affected by lawlessness, violence, substance abuse and chronic ill health, and called for Indigenous communities to have access to the same level of policing as those considered standard in non-Indigenous communities.

Professor Carson outlined the dangers inherent in the idea of 'community' as the conceptual framework for crime prevention and the possibility of groups being excluded through the idea of community. Professor Carson emphasised the importance of both obligations and rights in communal crime prevention.

Scott Rankin used two Big hART projects to illustrate how a culture-based approach can produce strong crime prevention outcomes. An outline of Ngapartji Ngapartji, an Indigenous language-based project working with Pitjantjatjara young people was given, along with a description of the Northcott project, an effort focused on public housing tenants in inner city Sydney.

AIC Director, Dr Toni Makkai, reported on findings from a project commissioned by



AIC Director Dr Toni Makkai with Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Chris Ellison, and Dr Dianne Heriot of the Attorney General's Department at the recent 6th annual ICPC Colloquium in Canberra.

the NSW Attorney General's Department to determine the impact of using closed circuit television or pre-recorded video in trial proceedings in sexual assault cases so that complainants can provide testimony without having to be present in the courtroom.

Dr Judy Putt, AIC Research Manager, outlined a project that examined the policing implications of illicit drug use in rural and remote Indigenous communities in Australia. Dr Putt highlighted some of the project's key findings and outlined promising strategies and good practice in drug law enforcement, community/police relations, and policing in rural and remote areas.

Dr Julia Tresidder, AIC research analyst, gave a presentation on the challenges of providing services for high risk youth. The AIC conducted research in 2006 into juvenile remand in Tasmania and highlighted the need for better assessment and service provision for these high risk offenders.

A large number of the presentations were based on overseas experiences, with speakers from Norway, Canada, South Africa, China, Germany, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Germany and Brazil.

ICPC members visited two Canberra community-based projects sites prior to the colloquium's commencement, seeing Narrabundah Primary School's medical and counselling services and

healthy breakfast program, and also visiting WIREDD (Women's Information Resources and Education on Drugs and Dependency), a service providing accommodation to homeless women, women escaping domestic violence and women recovering from drug addiction.

A total of 62 presentations were made at the colloquium as well as introductory and closing remarks by the President, Raymonde Dury, and the Director-General of the ICPC, Valérie Sagant. More information on the colloquium is available on the ICPC website, http://www.crime-prevention-intl.org/menu_item.php?code=annual_colloquium



Valérie Sagant, Director General ICPC, addresses delegates at the ICPC colloquium.

Visitors from Thailand

On 15–16 November the AIC hosted 33 representatives from justice agencies in Thailand, led by the Director-General of the Thai Office of Justice Affairs, Mr Wisit Wisitsora-At.

The visitors were given an overview of the criminal justice system in Australia and of the AIC, and two of them, Ms Valeerant Puntuworn and Ms Supattra Pakasith, met with research analysts to learn more about current AIC projects and how data is analysed and collected.



Mr Wisit Wisitsora At, of the Thai Office of Justice Affairs, Charles Sturt University's Professor David Biles, and AIC Director, Dr Toni Makkai, at the AIC in November.

New Corporate Services General Manager

The AIC is pleased to welcome Tony Marks as its new General Manager, Corporate Services. Tony joined the AIC in September 2006, undertaking the role of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and is responsible for human resources, information and communication technology and facilities and office services. He has more than 20 years experience in the public and private sectors, and until earlier this year was the Deputy CFO of the Defence Housing Authority.



Family violence and drug and alcohol use in remote communities conference, Darwin, 18 August 2006

As part of the AIC's commitment to explore issues of public policy significance, a conference on family violence and drug and alcohol use in remote communities was held in Darwin on 18 August 2006. The conference was co-hosted with the Department of Justice in the Northern Territory and identified family violence issues in remote settings with an emphasis on underlying factors such as illicit drug and alcohol use, and mental health issues.

Commissioner Paul White from the Northern Territory Police, Chief NT Magistrate Jenny Blokland and Professor Maryann Bin-Salik from Charles Darwin University provided a very stimulating opening session. Associate Professor Julie Stubbs from the University of Sydney and Jane Lloyd, the Manager of the Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council's Domestic Violence Service and Chair of the Chief Minister's Aboriginal Family Violence and Domestic Violence Strategies in the Northern Territory, spoke on family violence both in the NT and in the broader Australian context. Other speakers included Dr Rob Parker, Tamarind Centre, NT; Dr Tricia Nagel, Menzies School of Health Research; Associate Professor Dennis Gray from Curtin University; Dr Judy Putt from the AIC; and Brendan Delahunty and Kylie Parsons from the NSW Ombudsman's Office. Dr Toni Makkai, Director of the AIC, chaired the final panel which discussed appropriate interventions and where the discussion on family violence in remote communities should be heading.

During the lunch break, Assistant Commissioner Mark Payne from the Northern Territory Police launched two new monographs from the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund: *The policing implications of cannabis, amphetamine and other illicit drug use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities* by Brendan Delahunty and Judy Putt and *Policing, volatile substance misuse, and Indigenous Australians* by Associate Professor Dennis Gray and colleagues. The former is available at <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/other/2006-ndlerfmono15a.html>.

National Community Crime Prevention Programme workshop, Canberra, 13 September 2006

As part of the ongoing partnership between the National Community Crime Prevention Programme (NCCPP) of the Attorney-General's Department and the AIC, a capacity building workshop was held at the AIC for representatives of 25 funded projects in the lead up to the ICPC colloquium. Participants came from all over Australia, with representatives of projects from Broome to Tasmania. The NCCPP will document aspects of the workshop in a newsletter that will inform other funded projects about the workshop and its outcomes.

Clandestine drug laboratory remediation project workshops

To inform the Attorney-General's Department funded project on clandestine drug laboratory remediation a series of workshops were held with representatives from key stakeholder agencies including police and fire services, chemists, health and environment departments, local government and Worksafe.

Consideration was given to the steps required to develop and implement a formal remediation process as well as working out the associated resource and legal issues.

The discussions enabled participating agencies to provide input into the recommendations to be included in the project report. This report will be submitted to the Attorney-General's Department for further consideration over the coming months, with the final project report to be published on the AIC website.

Anti-corruption strategies in international development, CSIRO Canberra, 26 July 2006

The AIC and AusAID jointly hosted this roundtable on anti-corruption strategies pursuant to AusAID's recently issued white paper, *Australian aid: promoting growth and stability*. Representatives from a number of agencies including the Attorney-General's Department, AusAID, the Australian Federal Police and the Australian National University attended to discuss the key anti-corruption topics of law and justice initiatives, monitoring and evaluation.

Literature alerts

The JV Barry Library produces a series of subject alerts, designed to keep staff and the public up to date with current information. The alerts list new books and reports, and relevant journal articles and websites in several areas of interest to the Institute: crime prevention, cybercrime, drugs, evaluation, indigenous justice, juvenile justice, people smuggling and trafficking, and recidivism. Please contact the Library if you would like to be added to the list to receive one or more of these: jvbarry@aic.gov.au

Forthcoming conference

Crime in regional Australia: lessons from the bush and the city, Townsville 18–19 October 2007. This conference will be particularly committed to providing a forum for local government and regional communities.

Criminology Research Council activities

In September three Criminology Research Council funded research papers were released: *Trends and issues* no. 320 and *Research & public policy* series no. 71 dealing with mortality and morbidity among released prisoners in Western Australia, and *Trends and issues* no. 323, which charts the progress of the Pathways to Prevention project.

The mortality and morbidity project found released prisoners have substantially higher risks of death and hospital admission than the general population. They also have high rates of hospital admission and contacts with mental health services before imprisonment.

Pathways to Prevention is now in its second phase, and has seen many of its core ideas incorporated in the national Communities for Children program that was launched in April 2004 and in the policies of state governments. The evaluation of these initiatives over the next few years will determine whether the Pathways project can be adapted for use in communities across Australia.

Roundtables

The most recent AIC roundtables focused on the following topics:

- Clandestine drug laboratory remediation (11, 18, 25 July)
- Anti-corruption strategies in international development (26 July)
- Trafficking of women for sexual purposes: barriers to reporting and engaging with victim services (28 July)
- Bushfire arson investigation roundtable (4 October)
- Police drug diversion and evaluation roundtable (18 October)
- A profile of missing persons in New South Wales (12 December)

Occasional seminars

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

- **Effective technical assistance in crime prevention and criminal justice: what are the key components?** Margaret Shaw, International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, 18 September 2006
- **A profile of missing persons in New South Wales.** Shaunagh Foy, Charles Sturt University, 11 December 2006

New research projects

The AIC has begun the following research projects in recent months:

- Police drug diversion: reducing contact with the criminal justice system. Funded by Department of Health and Ageing, this project aims to examine levels of reoffending amongst individuals diverted by the police into drug treatment.
- Consumer fraud in Australia: stage 1. Funded by the Australasian Consumer Fraud Taskforce (ACTF), this research will examine the scope and impact of consumer fraud and seek a better understanding of fraudulent methodologies. A review will be undertaken of literature and prior consumer fraud research globally, and a roundtable discussion will be held with members of the ACTF.
- Cybercrime survey. This survey is funded through the Proceeds of Crime Act by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and will inform the formulation of government and private sector policy concerning computer security. It will involve a survey of up to 16,000 Australian businesses with a pilot survey scheduled early in the new year.
- The precursor chemical trade environment in Oceania. This is a five month study, funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and Australian Customs. It will look into the nature and level of precursor chemical activity in the region and the current legislative and regulatory frameworks in place to deal with it.
- Commonwealth fraud reporting. The AIC now has responsibility for the annual survey of Commonwealth agencies which investigates the prevalence, types and cost of fraud recorded by the agencies and prosecution outcomes.

Recent publications

Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice

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

- **No. 319:** Drug use among police detainees, 2005
- **No. 320:** Mortality and morbidity in prisoners after release from prison in Western Australia 1995–2003
- **No. 321:** Crimes against businesses in two ethnically diverse communities
- **No. 322:** Illicit drug use in rural and remote Indigenous communities
- **No. 323:** The Pathways to Prevention project: doing developmental prevention in a disadvantaged community
- **No. 324:** Identification systems: a risk assessment framework
- **No. 325:** The post-release experience of prisoners in Queensland
- **No. 326:** Swarming and the social dynamics of group violence
- **No. 327:** An investigation into the effective and ethical interviewing of suspected sex offenders

Research and public policy

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

- **No. 69:** Armed robbery in Australia: 2004 National Armed Robbery Monitoring Program annual report

- **No. 70:** Drug use monitoring in Australia: 2005 annual report on drug use among police detainees
- **No. 71:** Mortality and morbidity in prisoners after release from prison in Western Australia 1995–2003

Technical and background papers

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

- **No. 21:** Deaths in custody in Australia: National Deaths in Custody Program annual report 2005
- **No. 22:** Juveniles in detention in Australia, 1981–2005

Other publications

- Australian Institute of Criminology and the Criminology Research Council annual report 2005/06 <http://www.aic.gov.au/institute/anreport/2006/>

Crime Facts Info

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

- **No. 127:** Armed robbery in Australia: weapon use by location
- **No. 128:** Child protection and Indigenous status
- **No. 129:** Drug use trends among police detainees
- **No. 130:** Violence experienced by men and women
- **No. 131:** Morbidity after release from prison
- **No. 132:** Drug use and crime

- **No. 133:** Mortality after release from prison
- **No. 134:** The costs of high tech crime
- **No. 135:** Police perception of negative outcomes due to illicit drugs in Indigenous communities
- **No. 136:** Domestic violence order offenders
- **No. 137:** Children present in family violence incidents

AI Crime Reduction Matters

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

- **No. 48:** Implementing Communities That Care: a UK evaluation
- **No. 49:** Partnerships for crime prevention
- **No. 50:** Working out 'what works' in crime prevention
- **No. 51:** Using action research: an example from substance use research
- **No. 52:** Tensions over turf: how to minimise conflict in partnerships

BushFIRE Arson Bulletin

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

- **No. 34:** Consequences of bushfire arson: part 3: psychological impacts
- **No. 35:** Latest additions to the bibliographic database
- **No. 36:** Firesetting as a predictor of violence
- **No. 37:** Bushfire arson investigation
- **No. 38:** Australian juvenile arson intervention programs

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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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