



## NEWSLETTER

June 2012

### **A Case Study in Valuing Crime Prevention Outcomes The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council**

*A significant return on investment in crime prevention*

A recent external evaluation of the work of Australia's National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council has included a very comprehensive economic analysis of the costs and benefits of its reform activities.

This is probably the most detailed analysis (in economic terms) of any crime prevention strategy undertaken here. It indicates that for an investment of \$30 million over 13 years the program has delivered in, the last 5 years alone, a net value of \$201 million to the Australian community.

ACPC Executive member Ray Carroll, the



Executive Director of NMVTRC, writes:

Crime prevention practitioners are all too familiar with criticism

that evaluations of their initiatives fall short of being able to demonstrate their effectiveness or value for the resources expended. This evaluation challenge has a major impact on the longevity of crime prevention initiatives which are more often than not viewed by policy makers and funders as pilots or one off programs.

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) is arguably Australia's most enduring and successful business and government partnership in crime prevention. Established in 1999, it is a joint initiative of all

Australian governments and the insurance industry and its charter is to facilitate implementation of a diverse range of infrastructure and social responses to reduce the level of motor vehicle theft. A significant factor in the NMVTRC's longevity and ability to maintain stakeholder support has been its adherence to a comprehensive evaluation regime.

The Council's membership is made up of the peak bodies representing Australia's police services, transport agencies, insurers, motor manufacturers, motor trades and motoring clubs. Over its thirteen year life the NMVTRC has been provided with almost \$15 million from the combined state and territory governments and a further \$15 million from the insurance industry via the Insurance Council of Australia to fund its operations.

The NMVTRC is required to be independently evaluated every three years in order to inform a decision by its funders as to whether the prevailing vehicle theft landscape and the NMVTRC's performance in addressing vehicle theft warrant a further three year term. The latest evaluation was conducted in October 2011. A very important component of this evaluation process is the preparation of a cost-benefit analysis. An independent economist is commissioned to identify as comprehensively as possible, all the gains and losses from the NMVTRC's actions and to express them in monetary terms so they can be combined into a

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single measure to determine the net benefits of the NMVTRC's motor vehicle theft reforms.

The NMVTRC's evaluation process is assisted by the fact that it receives very detailed vehicle theft data from police services and insurance companies and it maintains significant historical and contemporary incident and cost data that is not readily available for other types of crimes.

Vehicle theft peaked in Australia in 2001 and the number of vehicles stolen per year has declined by more than 60 per cent since then (representing some 80,000 less thefts per year). However, the evaluation period was deliberately limited to the five years from 2005/06 to 2010/2011 in order to ensure as much as possible that the results were relevant to recent NMVTRC performance. The total reduction in vehicle theft numbers over this five year period was 22 per cent.

However, amongst the many challenges in undertaking this type of evaluation a key one is being able to separate the impact of the NMVTRC's initiatives from those factors that are beyond its scope but can still significantly influence vehicle theft outcomes. This challenge is common to all crime prevention evaluation.

As motor vehicle theft has been decreasing other types of property crime have also decreased. It can therefore be expected that a proportion of the reduction in motor vehicle theft that has occurred is due to factors other than any specific NMVTRC activities. In order to identify the impact of these other factors, estimates were required

of the proportions of vehicle theft reduction over the period that:

- would have occurred even if there had been no specific vehicle theft reforms of any type. This was done by identifying the trend in all property crime and discounting this level of reduction from the trend in vehicle theft.
- could have been expected as a result of vehicle theft initiatives that would have taken place even if NMVTRC did not exist and had subsequently occurred without the input or influence of the NMVTRC; and
- could be identified as having occurred as a result of the NMVTRC's direct action or influence.

Only the benefits from the proportion of vehicle theft reduction that was identified as occurring as a result of direct action or influence of the NMVTRC were used in the evaluation results.

All of the NMVTRC's reform activities and programs are allocated to one or other of two specific goals; reduction of short term theft (defined as stolen and recovered vehicles) and reduction of profit motivated thefts (defined as stolen and not recovered vehicles). The level of the NMVTRC's impact or influence on these two categories of theft varies so the evaluation results were calculated separately for short term and profit motivated theft and then combined for a total theft result.

The evaluators found that while there was a reasonably high correlation between the movements in short term motor vehicle theft and other property crime no such correlation existed

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with profit motivated theft. This suggested that profit motivated theft had not been subject to the same level of influences that were independent of specific theft reduction measures. The data also confirmed that it is difficult to achieve once and for all reductions in profit motivated theft which is expected as profit motivated theft is carried out by criminals who will always attempt to find new ways to maintain their livelihood once one pathway is closed off.

The NMVTRC activities were examined in detail and their contributing impact assessed for each category of theft and as is the case in all evaluations of this nature some assumptions had to be made based on incomplete data.

Since 2005/06, all other property crimes have reduced by 17 per cent while short term motor vehicle theft has reduced by 27 per cent leading to the assumption that 40 per cent of the total reduction in short term vehicle theft was independent of any specific theft reduction measures.

An estimate was then required for the proportion of the remaining 60 per cent of the reduction that could be directly attributable to the NMVTRC. The analysis settled on 40 per cent of the remaining reduction in short term theft being attributable to the work of the NMVTRC. Therefore 24 per cent the total reduction in short term theft in the period was attributed to the NMVTRC.

As there was no correlation between reductions in other types of property crime and profit motivated vehicle theft the

evaluator's assessment was that 80 per cent of the trend changes in profit motivated theft were attributable to the work of the NMVTRC.

The second component of the benefits equation is the unit cost per stolen vehicle. The cost of stolen vehicles is made up of four components; vehicle damage or loss, personal cost to owners, injury costs arising from stolen vehicle crashes, and insurance administration costs. The unit costs of vehicles subject to profit motivated theft are significantly higher than for short term thefts. This is mainly because newer vehicles are targeted by professional thieves and by definition they are not recovered.

The average unit cost for vehicle loss or damage resulting from short term thefts over the past five years was \$6,250 compared to profit motivated theft costs of \$16,500. Personal costs were assessed as \$2,350 and \$2,890 respectively while injury costs from stolen vehicle accidents averaged \$1,500. Insurance administration costs were \$780 and \$1,110 per claim.

The third part of cost benefit equation is the cost of the reform activity. In deriving the costs of the NMVTRC's reforms the evaluator had to take into account both the NMVTRC costs and the costs incurred by all other parties. The NMVTRC's recurrent funding is allocated to individual projects and the cost of running the NMVTRC itself but its initiatives also often require other parties to invest funds to improve their practices. In some areas this can amount to tens of millions of dollars. Examples include; the cost of manufacturers applying secure labels and microdots, fitting of immobilisers as a result of NMVTRC programs, young offender program

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costs and costs to transport agencies and insurers due to implementation of the NMVTRC's national written off vehicle reforms.

The overall benefits of the NMVTRC's vehicle theft reform were derived by multiplying the number of vehicle thefts that were estimated to have been reduced as a result of the NMVTRC's reforms by the unit costs of vehicle theft in each of the category of short term and profit motivated theft and comparing that benefit to the cost of implementing the identified reforms.

The final economic criteria used was the net present value which is the net difference between the benefits and the costs, and represents the overall economic worth of the

NMVTRC's motor vehicle theft reform.

While all cost benefit analysis is necessarily based on assumptions that bring with them a level of uncertainty, extensive sensitivity testing of the assumptions used in the NMVTRC's cost benefit analysis delivered a high level of confidence in the results.

Under the assumptions used, the total estimated benefits of the NMVTRC's contribution to vehicle theft reduction over the five year period was \$444 million compared to costs borne by all parties of \$243 million; delivering a net value of \$201 million to the Australian community.

More detail on the NMVTRC's work can be found at [www.carsafe.com.au](http://www.carsafe.com.au)

## National Crime Prevention Framework

### *A resource for crime prevention*

A National Crime Prevention Framework has been developed by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) on behalf of the Australia and New Zealand Crime Prevention Senior Officers' Group (ANZCP SOG)

It is a resource which outlines the most effective approaches to the prevention of crime. It also describes a range of possible roles and functions for state/territory and national governments for the effective delivery of crime prevention activity in Australia. The purpose of this Framework is to:

- support a coordinated approach to addressing crime and safety issues of national importance, including new and emerging crime problems;
- promote an improved level of collaboration between crime prevention agencies operating in each jurisdiction;
- improve the effectiveness of crime prevention across Australia by promoting principles of good practice and successful strategies;

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- encourage increased commitment to crime prevention at all levels of government and across different sectors; and
- assist in guiding the allocation of crime prevention resources to achieve the greatest impact.

This Framework does not aim to prescribe specific actions that must be implemented by

stakeholders involved in the delivery of crime prevention. Rather, it provides guidance by way of information on best practice to assist with the development of appropriate policies, strategies and programs to address crime problems.

Details of the Framework can be obtained at the following link

[www.aic.gov.au/en/crime\\_community/crimeprevention/ncpf.aspx](http://www.aic.gov.au/en/crime_community/crimeprevention/ncpf.aspx)

## Parliament of Victoria Inquiry into Locally Based Approaches to Community Safety and Crime Prevention

*A report that may be of interest to other jurisdictions*

The Victorian Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee tabled its report on the Inquiry into Locally Based Approaches to Community Safety and Crime Prevention in Parliament on Tuesday 5 June 2012. This comprehensive report sets out a framework for locally based approaches to community safety and crime prevention can be established and supported in Victoria. While this report specifically deals

with programs and activities in Victoria, it should be of interest to those in other jurisdictions. The report is based on extensive research while will have utility beyond the Victorian borders. The report can be accessed by

[www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/dcpc/Locally\\_Based\\_Approach\\_Crime\\_Prevention/dcpc.icp.finalreport.pdf](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/dcpc/Locally_Based_Approach_Crime_Prevention/dcpc.icp.finalreport.pdf)

## The Adam Sutton Crime Prevention Award

*The inaugural award for best publication on crime prevention*

Dr Adam Sutton who died on 6 October 2010 was a former Vice President of ACPC. He was a highly respected criminologist who had been South Australia's Director of the Crime Prevention Policy Unit and held the position of Associate Professor of Criminology at the University of Melbourne.

Dr Sutton's contribution to ACPC was acknowledged in the 2011 newsletter and an obituary appears in the Australian Journal of Criminology 1st December 2010 [http://  
anj.sagepub.com/  
content/43/3/612.full.pdf+html?rss=1](http://anj.sagepub.com/content/43/3/612.full.pdf+html?rss=1)

The Adam Sutton Crime Prevention Award was instituted by the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology as a lasting tribute to Dr Sutton in 2011 and is presented to an individual who in the opinion of the judges has written the best publication or report in the area of crime prevention which demonstrates practical and workable solutions to Australasian crime prevention problems, reflecting the values of a tolerant and inclusive society, and founded in theory and research on crime prevention.

These parameters encapsulate perfectly Dr Sutton's approach to crime prevention and his ideology.

The inaugural award was presented in September 2011 to Associate Professor Thomas Croft. His winning publication *The Law and (Anti-Social Behaviour Order Campaign in Western Australia* is an incisive analysis of

the Western Australian approach to crime prevention through the Prohibited Behaviour Orders Act 2010

In this publication Dr Croft examines the background to the enactment of the legislation which, in essence, enables a court to make an order prohibiting a person from engaging in certain behaviour. Dr Croft indicates that the approach is not free from controversy about its merits as a crime prevention tool. At the time of writing however it was not possible for Dr Croft to evaluate the effectiveness of the legislation as it had only recently been enacted.

The award was presented by Dr Sutton's wife Ms Allesandra Daly-Sutton (right), pictured with Associate Professor Fiona Heines, who is a former student of Dr Sutton and one of the examiners of the works the subject of the Award.



## Dr Isabelle Bartkowiak-Theron.

*New Tasmanian Executive Member of ACPC*

At the October 2011 AGM of ACPC, Dr. Isabelle Bartkowiak-Théron was elected as a Tasmanian member of the Executive.



She is the Discipline Coordinator of Police Studies at the University of Tasmania and Senior Researcher at the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies.

Isabelle teaches and researches policing, and specialises in the topic of vulnerable populations and policing.

Isabelle teaches this very topic at the Tasmania Police Academy, a role she was already undertaking with the New South Wales Police Force. She is a member of the Australian University Community Engagement Alliance Scholarship Committee, and a

member of the Ethical Review and Research Governance Advisory Committee of the Australian Institute of Police Management.

Isabelle is an Associate Investigator at the Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security, and became a member of the Australia Crime Prevention Council in December 2011. She is an adjunct Senior Lecturer at Charles Sturt University, in the School of Police Studies.

Isabelle wrote many journal articles and book chapters on the articulation of policing services, the criminal justice system and civil society, and is the editor, with Nicole L. Asquith of *Policing Vulnerability* (2012, Federation Press). A fervent advocate of crime prevention strategies, she commits regularly to the (process and/or impact) evaluation of such strategies, particularly in the areas of early intervention and vulnerable people.

## Sydney Institute of Criminology Activities

*Report by ACPC Vice President Garner Clancey*

ACPC Vice President Garner Clancey has reported on the following conferences/seminars undertaken recently by the Sydney Institute of Criminology.

### **Crime Prevention Evaluation Training (October 2011)**

Evidence-based crime prevention requires sound evaluations to be conducted. Unfortunately, few crime prevention programs in Australia are ever rigorously evaluated. This can result in promising initiatives being de-funded and popular, but not necessarily

successful, programs being adopted. Crime prevention practitioners often feel ill-equipped to conduct evaluations. This one-day training course helped practitioners to feel more confident in understanding evaluation reports, develop evaluation plans, and contract external evaluators. Through the use of three case studies (focusing on public space closed-circuit television systems, prevention efforts to address alcohol-related problems and youth diversionary programs), this practical training

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## Sydney Institute of Criminology Activities cont.

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course helped to equip practitioners with evaluation skills and knowledge. Staff from the Australian Institute of Criminology and the Sydney Institute of Criminology (Peter Homel, Katie Willis, Anthony Morgan Jess Anderson Garner Clancey) delivered the training. CCTV, liquor accord and Midnight Basketball case studies were covered in the training . See <http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/7801>

### **Comparative CPTED Conference (January 2012)**

The Institute hosted a Comparative CPTED Conference bringing together academics and practitioners from various jurisdictions, including England, New Zealand, Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland. Audio recordings and

presentations from some of the conference sessions are available at <http://hdl.handle.net/2123/8101>

### **NSW Crime Statistics and Trends (April 2012)**

This seminar explored the trends emerging from the latest New South Wales (NSW) crime statistics and considered reasons for the significant decline in particular offences (such as break, enter and steal and motor vehicle theft) over the last decade in NSW. Key commentators including Dr Don Weatherburn, Director, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research Ray Carroll, Executive Director, National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council Detective Superintendent Greig Newbery, Property Crime Squad, NSW Police Force probed recent trends and sought to explain the decline of key offences.

## **Greetings and News from the Solomon Islands**

### ***Director of Public Prosecutions reports on current activities***

Mr Ronald Talasasa, Director of Public Prosecutions for the Solomon Islands, who attended ACPC's 2007 Townsville Forum, has sent his greetings and news of current crime prevention activities in the Solomon Islands.



### **Save the Children Project on Crime Prevention**

In the past SI ODPP participated in a project aimed at addressing youth at risk of coming into conflict with the law. This initiative was

borne from Save the Children's close involvement with the SIPF in crime prevention initiatives, through setting up and strengthening crime prevention committees in high risk areas of Honiara. Part of the project involved exposing

groups of young people from selected communities to some of the realities of the criminal justice system.

In pursuance of that objective workshops were run by Save the Children wherein SI ODPP prosecutors attended as resource persons. We attended 3 workshops targeted at youths in the Burns Creek and White River settlement and a collection of young people from other provinces. We presented lectures on the role of the prosecutors (with special reference to youth and criminal justice system) including:

- What in your experience are some of the

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characteristics of the youth who find themselves before the Courts (home life, schooling, peers, how they got into trouble)

- Acknowledge young people's experience of the criminal justice system
- Who are the other people that get caught up in the criminal justice system when a youth is charged (mum, dad, victim, witnesses, school, employer)
- What are your observations of how witnesses and victims experience the criminal justice system particularly the trial process
- Introduction to victim of crime.

We provided copies of our lecture notes to Save the Children to be provided to participants.

### **RAMSI Outreach**

In the past 2008 to early 2011 ODPP Advisers attended RAMSI Outreach programs in Savo Island and Honiara. At the outreaches Prosecutors spoke to people about Crime and the role of the DPP/ Office of the DPP. The responses were very encouraging, people asked many questions about how office, how they can contact us, what we do to assist people involved in the criminal justice system, tension related matters, surrender of guns etc. They were happy that we attended the outreaches.

### **SI Law Week 2010**

In 2010 ODPP participated in SI's first Law Week at which we showcased our Office, what we do and how we work. Members of the public visited our booth daily and asked many questions. It was an opportunity for us

to speak to the public about crime and how to avoid getting involved. Notably many students/ young people visited our booth, and were informed about crime, what to do if they are victims/witnesses of crime and how to stay free of crime.

We provided information pamphlets to those who visited our booths. The pamphlets provided information about the various aspects of our work and for people who are caught in the criminal justice system.

### **SI Law Week 2011**

In October 2011 ODPP participated in SI's second Law Week. Our booth was a favorite stop shop for many people, students and young people particularly. Incidentally the DPP himself personally manned the booth throughout the week. He made presentations to groups of people who came to the booth, he received and answered many questions from students. It was an opportunity to speak to them on how to avoid being caught in the criminal justice system as offenders. The activities of Law Week were given wide media coverage- television, radio and news print. The DPP was interviewed on television. We also handed out pamphlets providing information about our office, addressing issues of crime and how to prevent getting caught in crime.

### **2011 SI Parliament Open Day**

In 2011 ODPP participated in Parliament Open Day which was held at Parliament grounds. The ODPP booth was again a favourite stop shop which attracted many people. Our pamphlets which addressed several aspects of crime and provided information about our office ran out quickly and more copies had to be prepared

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## Report from the Solomon Islands cont.

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and taken down to Parliament House.

### DPP's outreach in Munda

I have had the time speaking to groups of people, including children in my village and in Church about the importance of keeping the peace and abiding by the law. Many questions were asked and I was able to answer them well. The villagers had a lot of

interests in the law and how it can help to secure the livelihood of people.

### Forthcoming Events

The DPP has a small allocation of funds for publicity. It is proposed that the ODPP will soon commence a regular weekly/fortnightly radio and or television program aimed at informing the public about our office, and to educate them about the criminal justice system. The program will afford the public opportunity to ask questions and air their views.

## Greetings and News from Indonesia

### Indonesian Academic Awards



Professor Adrianus Meliala PhD, who represented Indonesia at ACPC's 2011 Adelaide Forum, has written with his greetings.

He advises that for the past two years the Department of Criminology of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Indonesia, has given an award to its students with the highest GPA per semester. The award is named for Professor Mardjono Reksodiputro, the most senior Indonesian criminologist.

Professor Mardjono, who is also a member of the National Law Commission of the Republic of Indonesia, was the founder of the Department., which for the moment is the only such Department in Indonesia.

Upon receiving the award, each recipient is granted a sum of money donated by former students of Professor Mardjono.

The award is seen as prestigious by the students who would like to follow the steps of their senior.

At the award session at the beginning of the semester, a "studium generale" is given by a noted Indonesian law enforcement officer or academic.

This makes the event important both to the students and to members of the public in general.

## 21 Under 21

### *Proposal for youth to attend conferences for free*

Western Australian ACPC supporter Peter Kasprzak (who generously provides our website space) has been working on a new concept called 21 UNDER 21 which advocates free conferences access to youth. The movement's objective is to encourage event organizers to admit free of charge to any conference at least 21 young people under 21 years of age. Events organizers see

the project as an investment in the future as chances are that these young people will eventually become loyal regular participants of conferences.

Details of the concept can be found [www.21under21.org](http://www.21under21.org) and contact can be made at [contact@21under21.org](mailto:contact@21under21.org). Every organization needs "new blood" to grow and flourish and this is especially true in crime prevention.

## Future Events

### *The First International Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health*

The First International Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health is to be held at the University of Melbourne between 11 and 14 November 2012. The purpose of the Conference is to establish and investigate the partnership between law enforcement and public health in addressing complex social problems.

Themes to be examined at the Conference will involve:

- Mental health, including dealing with drug and alcohol affected persons
- Violence, including, family violence, gender-based violence, the Unsafe City and other violence prevention
- Disease, including HIV, other communicable disease, epidemic control
- Road trauma
- Emergency and disaster management, major events
- Alcohol regulation – regulation for health and public order
- Illicit drugs and harm reduction
- Young People's health
- Indigenous health
- Health in the Developing World

- Post conflict opportunities for police/law enforcement/military reform

Speakers will include NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione, APM; Professor Ernie Drucker of the Department of Family and Social Medicine, Columbia University ; Professor Scott Burris, Professor of Law at Temple Law School; Judge Jennifer Coate, the State Coroner of Victoria; Ms Libby Lloyd AM former Chair of the Australian Commonwealth's Violence against Women Advisory Group (VAWAG) ; Mr. Auke J. van Dijk ,adviser to the Chief of the Amsterdam Police; Professor R.P. Ogloff, Foundation Professor of Clinical Forensic Psychology at Monash University and Director of the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science; and Professor Mark Stevenson an epidemiologist and Professor and Director of the Monash University Accident Research Centre at the Monash Injury Research Institute.

During the Conference ACPC will co--host a session on crime prevention issues and Tasmanian National Executive member Dr. Isabelle Bartkowiak-Théron will be a speaker. For details of the Conference see [www.policing-and-public-health.com](http://www.policing-and-public-health.com)