



ACPC

Australian Crime Prevention Council

AUSTRALIAN CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

2023 BULLETIN

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- The Home Detention Integrated Support Services Program
- Safer Public Spaces for Women and Girls
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A just society through crime prevention



ACPC

Australian Crime Prevention Council

Welcome the Australian Crime Prevention Council’s 2023 Bulletin

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



PETER NORMAN OAM

Greetings. This is the first Bulletin (formerly described as a Newsletter) published by the Council since April 2020. That had occurred during the Covid health crisis, creating huge challenges and disruptions, but it contained reports from Australia, Indonesia, the USA, the Czech Republic, New Zealand, Canada, and Zimbabwe, and it received very positive feedback from many who received it. At that time there was some doubt as to the future of the Council- which has existed since 1960 - and it explored alternative courses including merger with another organization. However, in August 2021 Peter Kasprzak of WA who had spent several years on the WA Steering Committee and had organized conferences and meetings, volunteered to recruit new talent to resuscitate the Council, and was successful in this regard.

At the 2022 Annual General Meeting, a new Executive was elected, with members from Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, the ACT, Tasmania, and South Australia, incorporating some from the former Executive and many new to the Council. Admiral Chris Barrie remains as President, Leigh Garrett is Public Officer, Tracey Cheng National Secretary, and Craig Gregory is Treasurer. I remain as Chairman. Since then, we have developed strategies to increase our membership, to continue publication of the Bulletin, to arrange webinars, lobby for crime prevention, fund and implement crime prevention scholarships. and maintain our local, national, and international contacts and associations.

Some of our new Executive met in Melbourne in April to discuss these strategies.

There are many positive crime prevention programs. This Bulletin contains contributions from our members, and from our friends in other jurisdictions. I thank all these for their contributions, and others who have assisted in its production. Our common interest as a crime prevention network has been in enhancing community safety and reducing crime, and our experience together tells us that not only do we share many of the same problems, but also many similar solutions. It is to our mutual benefit that by sharing information many people from many places can actively work together to enhance community safety.



CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AUSTRALIA



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Abigail O'Hara is a multi-racial Singaporean PhD candidate and Research Training Programme (RTP) scholarship recipient at The University of Queensland (UQ), Australia. She has tutored Psychology, Criminology and Cyber Criminology to undergraduate and postgraduate students at UQ, presented at numerous conferences, published research in the Crime Science academic journal and has contributed to a media press releases on cyber-enabled crime. Abigail is passionate about teaching, research, social justice issues and evidence-based approaches to crime prevention and community safety.

Journal Publication: O'Hara, A.C., Ko, R.K.L., Mazerolle, L. et al. Crime script analysis for adult image-based sexual abuse: a study of crime intervention points for retribution-style offenders. *Crime Sci* 9, 26 (2020).

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40163-020-00130-9>

Press Release: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/108267606/sextortion-scammers-hold-shamed-kiwis-to-ransom-online>

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COVID-19 Pandemic and Cybercrime Trends

The COVID-19 pandemic was an unparalleled, unprecedented event which has impacted the lives of billions of citizens globally resulting in what became commonly referred to as the new-normal in terms of societal norms and the way we live and work (Lallie et al., 2021). Some have also alluded the pandemic to an extended “moral holiday”- a term coined by psychologist and philosopher, William James, to describe situations in which individuals regale themselves with a temporary relaxation of the rules of conduct or treat themselves to an enjoyable moment and a time of “recreational violence” (see Weenick, 2013; Wood, 2020, June 13). From a criminological perspective, a pandemic could directly or indirectly alter the landscape of criminal opportunities, the risk of being targeted or victimised and offending behaviour (Clarke & Cornish, 1986; Wilcox et al., 2018). Sood et al. (2021) demonstrates how cybercriminals have successfully exploited the COVID-19 crisis for their activities.

The pandemic had dramatically and significantly increased remote work, online study, and entertainment via online platforms, ramping up the number of Internet users worldwide by 50-70% (Sood et al., 2021), generating unique cyber-crime related circumstances for individuals, society, and businesses. This large-scale shift of activities online increased cyber threats and successful cyber-attacks across a wide range of cybercrime types (Lallie et al., 2021),

such as targeted and broad-based phishing attacks, malware attacks and online fear-mongering to conduct scams and fraudulent operations (Sood et al., 2021).

For example, more than 240 million COVID-19 related daily spam messages were mapped and Google blocked 18 million daily malware and phishing-related emails during April 2020 (Kumaran & Lugani, 2020). According to a review by Wu et al. (2023), eight topics became the most recent additions to the cybercrime and cybersecurity academic literature. These include blockchain, artificial intelligence (AI), training, intrusion detection system, feature extraction, decision-making, tools, and COVID-19. In all, topics, and subtopics— machine learning, Internet of Things (IoT), deep learning, intrusion detection, and blockchain – are among the most popular subtopics today.

Plural Policing in The Netherlands and New Zealand: A viable response to manage COVID-19 pandemic-related security

Community policing remains an integral part of The Netherlands' plural policing landscape and its benefits of citizen-led policing and community safety initiatives have been evidenced in Dutch and New Zealand policing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Case Study: The Netherlands



Like many other countries, police organisations lacked the capacity to fully and effectively enforce the safety and social surveillance measures that came with the COVID-19 pandemic (Boer et al., 2023; Stogner et al., 2020). Other public and private institutions even had better resources to implement and enforce these safety measures to prevent social malfunctioning and disorder (Aston et al., 2020; Mawby, 2020).

Being receptive to applied scientific research, the Dutch police utilised The CoroPol Monitor, a data-driven tool to supply open-source intelligence, as well as critical pandemic-related information to the police and other governmental safety and security actors (Bervoets et al. in Boer et al., 2023). More specifically, the CoroPol Monitor and Research Project was a private and non-commercial social justice initiative aimed to fill the identified information gap within The Netherlands National Police on terms of the strategy and tactical responses required to police the pandemic which was an urgent need from the government during the early stages of the pandemic.

With CoroPol, international knowledge about the impact of the pandemic on crime, safety and enforcement was collected, analysed, interpreted, and disseminated. CoroPol also provided normative (evidence-based) guidance on potential ways to approach and address policing issues. According to the creators of CoroPol, the documents (especially the ones used in police briefings) it provided were appraised as being useful especially during the initial stages of the pandemic when it was critical to understand new developments and broader trends regarding COVID-19 in a timely fashion, prepare and forecast without having to react on an ad-hoc basis and relying on improvisation.

Case Study: New Zealand

While The New Zealand Police played a critical role in enforcing COVID-19 pandemic control measures, the policing landscape remained plural. The article by Deckert et al. (2021) identifies two forms of policing that were utilised in New Zealand during the COVID-19 lockdown and propose that these be incorporated in Loader's (2000) plural policing model. The authors argue that Loader's (2000) model should also include next-to-government policing by Indigenous peoples, such as the 'community checkpoints' run by Māori on top of the model's by-government and below government policing categories. The authors also proposed that the model's category of below-government policing be expanded to include 'peer-to-peer policing' which involves the government assigning responsibility to members of the public to subject each other to large-scale surveillance and social control. The authors also contend that formalising agreements for these collaborative actions between police and communities within New Zealand's plural policing framework is an optimal public health strategy as it also improves shared power and responsibility, community building and resilience against future pandemics.

Improving the legitimacy and functioning of online community crime prevention groups

Community crime prevention and watch groups are increasingly moving their information dissemination, coordination and mobilisation activities online. In a qualitative research study on online communications, symbolism and imagery of 35 community crime prevention and crime watch groups in Canada to explore how these groups make decisions and mobilise action (Walby & Joshua, 2021). It was found that while these groups improve social cohesion to promote community safety, these same groups may also encourage stereotyping, blaming, shaming and even vigilantism through misrepresentations of crime occurring in the community, encouraging fear around safety and fuelling moral panic.

These researchers also found that crime prevention often takes a backseat in most of these groups and the excessive focus on crime reporting and fear mongering derail community development. These findings were consistent with a study by Mols and Pridmore (2019) which found that while citizen-initiated participatory policing practices in the neighbourhood can increase (experiences of) safety and social cohesion, they often default to lateral surveillance, ethnic profiling, risky vigilantism, and distrust towards neighbours and strangers. Mols and Pridmore's (2019) study also found that WhatsApp neighbourhood crime prevention (WNCP) groups are diverse in structures; they vary from independent self-organised policing networks to neighbours working alongside community police.

The findings from both studies indicate that online communications shape community crime prevention efforts and how ideas about the regulation of crime and social control spread online, the potential risk to local governance posed by the vigilante-style actions of such groups, the complications around accountability, responsabilisation of "citizens actually doing police work" in neighbourhood safety and security and the normalisation of fear and suspicion. However, in certain instances, police legitimacy can come under scrutiny if the police rely on crime prediction tools without constantly updating these tools with accurate police data.



Case Study: USA and Crime Prediction Tool (PredPol)

Police have been increasingly employing artificial intelligence (AI) techniques to assist them with the planning stages of crimes that have not yet occurred and to examine crimes that have already been committed. Automation tools are supposed to extract plotters of yet-to-be-committed crimes from enormous amounts of data as part of ex-ante preventive efforts. As a result, a distinction is established between tools that target 'risky' persons, such as in 'heat lists'—algorithm-generated lists identifying people most likely to commit a crime and tools that target risky locations, such as in hot spot policing') (Kadar et al., 2019).

In a book chapter by Tabi et al. in Montasati et al. (2023), the authors question the utility of AI, more specifically the use of software called PredPol by the police in the USA to predict crime and reduce the number of police patrols. in predicting and identifying online child abuse compared to face-to-face investigation and intervention. The authors argue that the predictions provided by PredPol were based on the information or data already provided by the police and did not provide additional value. Moreover, the number of patrols predicted by the software did not differ to the number of actual police patrols prior to the creation of PredPol and the correlations between crime prediction using AI data and the actual arrest of criminals were insignificant.

Despite this controversial use of AI, there have been numerous success stories in the battle against human trafficking using the second, ex-post-facto usage of automated systems to combat child sexual abuse in Europe, Interpol oversees the International Child Sexual Exploitation Image Database (ICSE DB). Tabi et al. (2023) contends that "good-quality AI depends on good-quality data" while good-quality data can only be generated by good quality AI tools. For topic modelling as an AI-based technique for analysing patterns of behaviour in social media data and how they can be applied to cyber and cyber-enabled crime prevention, Daneshkhah et al. in Montasati et al. (2023) demonstrate the potential of behavioural analytics in intelligence-led policing.

Ways to Prevent Internet-Facilitated Radicalisation and Disinformation

Extremism has emerged as both a response and a topic of research inquiry in the years following the 9/11 terror attacks. Notably, the core element of extremism is a crisis, such as 9/11 (Orofino & Allchorn, 2023) and more recently, COVID-19. As COVID-19 was rapidly spreading with new and more severe and contagious strains of the virus emerging, anti-government extremism (AGE), such as movements opposing all forms of state authority, specific state/government authority figures, or the rejection of specific policies were also spreading around the world, in the U.S. and Europe (Bjørgero & Braddock, 2022), and has gained prominence in Australia. More recently in Australia, a man was charged with impersonating the Australian Federal Police (AFP) Commissioner in a fake video calling the public to rally and "overthrow" the federal government (Antrobus, 2021, August 2) and the recent "execution-style" killings of two police officers in Wieambilla and a conspiracy theory group supporting the Queensland police killings and encouraging others to "take up arms" (Foster, 2022, December 15). The Queensland Police Service (QPS) issued a statement that these police killings were a "religiously motivated terrorist attack", motivated by premillennialism, a fundamentalist, extremist Christian ideology (Agius, 2023, February 16).

A study by Wolbers et al. (2023) reviewed the academic literature to better understand how the Internet contributes to radicalisation, the factors which make an individual susceptible to being radicalised and the mechanisms underlying the relationship between the internet and violent extremism. The authors proposed high-level

approaches to disrupt internet-facilitated radicalisation and improve knowledge gaps in counterterrorism and countering violent extremism regimes: content removal, account suspensions, increasing visibility (reducing anonymity), and counternarrative and education campaigns, and each of these approaches are matched to the mechanisms underpinning these mechanisms.

In view of the rapid and large-scale movement of people's work activities and social interactions online, and a desperate need to make sense of the upheaval brought about by the pandemic, extremists have seized the opportunity to escalate violence, civil unrest, "coronasceptics" protests (Stephens, 2020), increase political and social polarisation, promote and spread COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 conspiracy theories/disinformation, and use the pandemic as a weapon to exterminate certain hated members of the human species and hasten the collapse of civilisation (Grossman, 2021, October 15).

The article by Gradoń (2020) which draws from recent reliable open-source information, explains the potential and actual impacts of fake news propagation potential on society and law enforcement and security efforts, detailing different aims and directions of disinformation campaigns and how the COVID-19 pandemic has been exploited to leverage. The author also outlines the challenges associated with the use of deep fakes, the abuse of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Deep Learning and Reinforcement-Learning technologies and proposes preventative strategies to reduce the harmful effects of disinformation through spreading fake news. Similar to Wolbers et al. (2023), he proposes the use of counternarratives and other measures such as the use of AI as a countermeasure for law enforcement and public safety personnel (see also Rees & Montasari in Montasari et al., 2023).

Preventing the illegal sharing of sexual images and use of child sexual exploitation material (CSEM)

Online (automated) warning messages

Prichard et al. (2022) conducted a randomised controlled trial using online warning messages to dissuade 528 men aged between 18- 32 years from visiting a fake website offering access to free pornography to users who uploaded sexual imagery of a woman. The randomised controlled trial comprised three conditions or groups: Group/Condition 1: Went straight to the landing page; Group/Condition 2: Encountered a text warning that sharing sexual images of anyone aged under 18 years old is illegal; Group/Condition 3: received the same message followed by an animation. 60% of Group 1 participants, 43% of Group 2 participants and 38% of Group 3 participants attempted to access the site. The authors argue that online messages provide a viable strategy to reduce image-based abuse and the distribution of child sexual exploitation material (CSEM) by adults and minors (see also O'Hara et al., 2020) for other crime intervention points to prevent retribution-style image-based abuse.

Another study by Hunn et al. (2023) recommend an automated warning message system on created on the basis of the cooperation of multiple actors within the technology industry (e.g., individuals and organisations involved in technology spaces, government, non-government and private sectors) andn the implementation of measures by account holders, using a combination of techniques to cybersecurity based on the theory of defence (Coole et al., 2012), to prevent the consumptions of child sexual abuse material. The authors argue that if one layer of defence fails, the other layers can still provide protection and deter the crime. Acknowledging the ease of criminals finding their way around the system, the authors also advocate the use of multiple measures to increase the overall effectiveness and resiliency of the system.

Reddit banning Deepfakes: Content moderation and situational crime prevention

Kikerpill et al. (2021) utilised a situational crime prevention framework to analyse online community reactions to the banning of deepfake pornographic content from Reddit. The researchers qualitatively analysed 582 Reddit user comments in response to Reddit's rule-change announcement. Reddit users criticised Reddit's reactionary approach to moderating community-harming actions, the platform's continued rigid stance on freedom of expression even discourse on illegal and demeaning content. They also criticised Reddit for only implementing the new rules targeted at preventing image-based abuse and child sexual exploitation based on pressure from external forces, such as bad publicity from mainstream media or financial matters, rather than stemming from an inherent stance on decreasing community-harming activities.

This research provides a roadmap for analysing the strengths and weaknesses of future online platform content moderation strategies. For a focused systematic review of 352 articles across computer science and practical suggestions on how to apply 25 situational crime prevention techniques to more types of cyber-focused and cyber-enabled crime (see review by Ho et al., 2022).

Reporting of dating app facilitated sexual violence to the police: Victim-survivor experiences and outcomes

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has released a report that reveals that three in every four survey respondents had been subjected to sexual violence facilitated via dating apps in the last five years. Sexual harassment was the most common form of behavior reported, as well as abusive and threatening language, and unsolicited sexual images.

The report explores the findings of a large national survey of dating app and website users to examine the prevalence and nature of sexual harassment, aggression and violence facilitated by these online platforms.



One in three survey respondents were subjected to in-person dating app facilitated sexual violence (DAFSV), perpetrated by someone they met in person after communicating on a dating app or website. This included sexual assault or coercion, reproductive and sexual-health related abuse and in-person image-based sexual abuse.

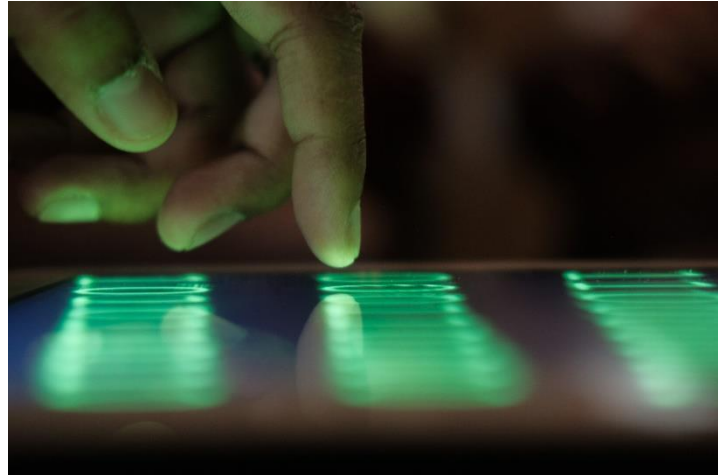
AIC Deputy Director Dr Rick Brown said that the research also shows that DAFSV was experienced much more frequently among LGBTIQ+ men and women compared to heterosexual participants.

Lawler S & Boxall H 2023. Reporting of dating app facilitated sexual violence to the police: Victim-survivor experiences and outcomes. Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice no. 662. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. <https://doi.org/10.52922/ti78887>

Cybersecurity, Regulations and Standards for Blockchain technologies are Misaligned and Inadequate

Radanliev (2023) conducted a review and used a case study approach to analyse secondary data on cybersecurity from the United States (US), the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom (UK), and cybersecurity international standards and frameworks that can be applied to new Blockchain projects. This review included Blockchain endpoint security, and new technologies (e.g., The Internet-of-Things/IoT). The results demonstrated that cybersecurity standards are not designed in collaboration between the two major western blocks: US and EU. While the US is still leading in this area, the security standards for cryptocurrencies, internet-of-things (IoT), and blockchain technologies, unfortunately security standards for cryptocurrencies have not evolved as fast as these technologies.

This review used NIST and the ISO27001 as bases for comparison and assessed new standards, like ENISA includes aspects related to technical attacks and non-technical attacks (e.g., social engineering, insider threats). According to Radanliev (2023), one of the biggest cyber threats in Blockchain Technologies in 2023 are insider threats (not always malicious), ransomware, and phishing/social engineering attacks. Non-malicious threats include the use of default passwords, poor data hygiene, server misconfigurations, and so on. For non-malicious cyber threats (the most common type of cyberthreat), the author contends that even the most



secure cryptographic algorithm would not be helpful as the risk is not situated in the communication itself, or in the device. Rather, the risk is in the implementation of cybersecurity for the blockchain system that is secured with cryptography. Hence, the author recommends that organisations take action to prevent hackers from accessing their critical data and technologies.

The overall conclusion from this review is that many cyber risks in general (including IoT and cryptocurrency) remain unregulated in the USA, EU, UK, and globally. The author predicts that DDoS attacks will continue in 2023 and beyond and become more sophisticated and crypto markets are likely to cause significant loss of savings for individuals that invest in them. The review by Velasco (2022) of the AI-policy efforts of international organisations and alterations to the administration of the criminal justice system and law-making processes, including international AI-based instruments being used to counter cybercrime would also be helpful to understand the international policy gaps in cybercrime prevention.



DAVID WRAY

David Wray is the ACPC's Western Australian representative, and has over 30 years experience in senior roles in Government and non-Government agencies. Past roles include Director Crime Prevention; Director Seniors and Volunteering; Policy Manager Drug and Alcohol Office; Senior Policy Officer Mental Health Commission; Health Policy Officer, Dept Premier and Cabinet (Social Policy Unit); State Manager Headspace; and WAPHA Mental Health Program Lead.

His greatest areas of interest and passion are prevention and integrated services delivery in response to complex issues, both of which necessitate integrated, whole of Government, whole of community responses. "Not rocket science – far more complicated than that!"

Since 2020, David has operated his own business, Switch Consultancy Service (<https://switchconsultancy.org/>) an independent service to support NGO Executives in the health and community services sector.

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Towards Integrated Crime Prevention

Like most other behaviours, criminal behaviour does not exist in a vacuum. While every day we see that rehabilitation efforts can effectively change behaviour, we know too that such post-event treatment can only ever be for a finite period, and that its benefits can be easily undone by the environment in which people live. To reduce recidivism, what is needed is not more treatment but greater attention to clients' social environments.

The United Nations states unequivocally that the biggest risks come from causal pathways outside individual control, commencing from conception, that can have critical influences across the early years of life in the home and community and extend beyond into school and then community life as an adult.

Increasingly, prevention effort is informed by, and aligned with, evidence on how attitudes and behaviours are formed in a biopsychosocial system. Bronfenbrenner's bioecological model of development has come to dominate thinking about how humans develop in social contexts (i.e., grow and mature) over time. This model sees people and their behaviours as products of the different systems in which they dwell (e.g., families, neighbourhoods, communities, organisations, nations), presenting a mix of both risk and protective factors which may be influenced by preventative action.

So too, the evidence locates much of the burden of criminal behaviour in the basket of human development, requiring preventive interventions across the earliest periods of life.

To prevent criminal behaviour, and in particular 'interpersonal crimes' (crimes between people such as FDV, community violence, antisocial behaviour, robbery, physical assault etc), crime prevention effort and resourcing

needs to turn towards addressing the key risks known to underpin crime, along with a range of other complex health and social issues. Three key risk factors are evident in most if not all such issues:

1. Social Determinants of Health;
2. Socioeconomic inequality; and
3. Adverse Experiences of Childhood (ACES).

There is overwhelming evidence of the linkages between these risks and a range of social outcomes, including crime.

By guiding communities affected by social issues to address these risks, and by supporting individuals and groups towards positive and evidence-based action to reduce disadvantage and build protective factors, crime can be prevented in the longer-term, and a broad range of harms reduced in the shorter term.

Sir Michael Marmot and Richard Wilkinson (2003) led the world in defining and applying the principles of social determinants of health. The implication of this work is that effective crime prevention policy must be supported by a broad framework of social and economic action. This includes the need to address the patterns of social deprivation in which the problems are rooted, as well as providing rehabilitation services. Disadvantage comes in many forms and its effects vary across communities and individuals.

Research over the last two decades has expanded upon the social determinants approach by building on the available evidence of both risk and protective factors and emphasising the need for broader action to specifically address early life determinants of later life problems. Extensive research highlights the economic benefits of early life course investments across multiple areas and emphasises the importance of family life and its role in establishing the conditions for a healthy and productive life course. It is noted, for instance, the role early childhood stress such as experiencing or witnessing abuse plays in the risk of later violence.



Building upon the recommendations of the UN to target early interventions, a recent Australian report by Teager et al. (2019) found that earlier preventive measures are both more effective and more cost efficient than the alternatives. That is, interventions in childhood tend to be cheaper and better options and so should be prioritised.

Parallel research notes that the risk of suffering Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) is strongly associated with socio-economic status, and points to the cumulative effect of multiple ACEs on life course development and outcomes.

- Walsh et al. note that in Australia, children growing up in poverty are three times as likely to experience abuse, neglect or to be exposed to domestic violence than those not in poverty. They also refer to a West Australian study that found children growing up in poor neighbourhoods were 14 times more likely to experience abuse and neglect than their counterparts in other areas.

- Bellis et al looked at subgroups who had experienced clusters of four or more ACEs and found they were much more likely to have lives characterised by things like unintended teen pregnancy, smoking, violence, binge drinking, poor diet and illicit drug use.
- A 2017 study found that for each extra ACE, there is at least a 34% increase in the chances of a person developing a clinically significant substance use disorder as an adult. Further, the effects of ACEs on problems of all types seems to hold across both sexes.

While it is important to recognise that exposure to ACEs can happen regardless of family wealth or suburb, the cumulative effect of ACEs alongside other risk factors, combined with the absence of protective factors often experienced in disadvantaged groups is highly predictive of crime and a range of other social outcomes.

That is, a poor start in life makes poor health choices further down the line a lot more likely.

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Johnson, Genevieve Marie (2010). "Internet Use and Child Development: Validation of the Ecological Techno-Subsystem". *Journal of Educational Technology & Society*. 13 (1): 176–185. ISSN 1176-3647

Social determinants of health: the solid facts. 2nd edition / edited by Richard Wilkinson and Michael Marmot.

Teager, W., Fox, S., & Stafford, N. (2019). How Australia can invest early and return more: A new look at the \$15b cost and opportunity. T.K. Institute.

Walsh, D., McCartney, G., Smith, M., & Armour, G. (2019). Relationship between childhood socioeconomic position and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs): a systematic review. *J Epidemiol Community Health*, 73(12), 1087-1093.

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What is Integrated Prevention, and What Role Can Crime Prevention Play?

In my earlier article, I presented evidence that the key risks for criminal behaviour share common causal pathways with those of a broad range of other health and social issues. Alongside this, there are shared potential solutions that can be enhanced by working in partnership with other sectors, agencies, and local communities.

While situational crime prevention has a continuing and important role – particularly in reducing property crime – new approaches are required to prevent criminal behaviour itself, and to address growing levels of interpersonal crime (crimes between people such as FDV, community violence, antisocial behaviour, robbery, physical assault etc). These crime prevention efforts should target both the individual and the multiple environments in which they dwell. Crime prevention policy and planning in these areas should be:

1. Structured and integrated with prevention effort in other sectors and agencies;
2. Targeted to the specific risk factors known to most impact crime and other social outcomes, namely: Socioeconomic disadvantage; Life milestone developmental delays (particularly early childhood); and Adverse Experiences of Childhood (ACEs)
3. Targeted to those communities and groups currently experiencing and most at-risk of continuing harm;
4. Locally driven and responsive; and
5. Evidence-based.

Community actions to reduce inequity should include a focus on each of the levels of individual and family, social-cultural environment (people), the physical/built environment (the place) and the economic environment (equitable opportunity).

The available evidence points towards several evidence-based and promising approaches in each of these domains, and further evidence is growing every day. The following list of evidence-based actions is drawn from a review of key publications – it is by no means ‘definitive’ but is included here as an indication of potential actions.

Individual and family support actions include:

- Evidence based rehabilitation programs;
- Parenting education and support;
- Parent and community education on stress management;
- Actively supporting children who witness or experience violence;
- Encourage families to get help from familiar sources of support, including extended family, religious leaders, and faith or community groups.
- Planning and delivering programs and services specifically for equity-seeking populations (which include ex-prisoners);
- Increasing access to all public services by equity-seeking populations;
- Facilitated access for mothers who use drugs;
- ‘Brief intervention’ for AOD problems in relevant agencies;
- Community awareness campaigns;
- Positive Parenting Programs;
- Revitalising damaged or broken family networks;



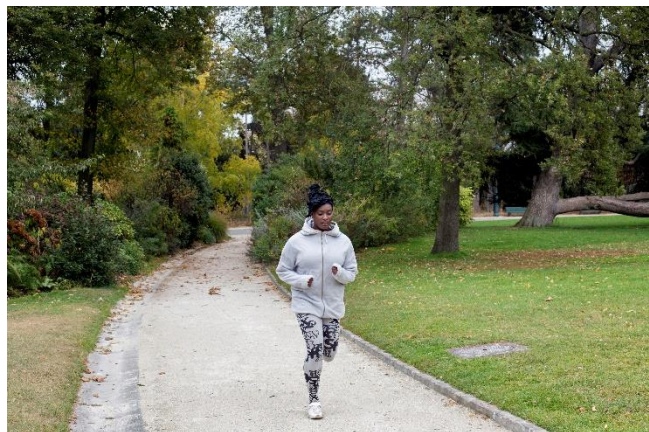
- Addressing biopsychosocial complexities;
- Physical health opportunities and encouragement

Social/cultural actions include:

- Linking prevention efforts across sectors;
- Restorative justice programs and healing circles;
- Increasing knowledge among community members and community groups regarding risk and protective factors related to crime;
- Educating community members and community groups on evidence-based and/or evidence-informed prevention initiatives and activities that are most likely to be successful;
- School education;
- Connect childcare centers with training opportunities that highlight the importance of early experiences that are sensory rich, use routines effectively, and promote strong caregiver–child attachments;
- Embedding Cultural competence and sustainability in all service agencies;
- Advocacy around policy development;
- Advocacy around AOD availability and marketing;
- Rebuilding social relationships, particularly intergenerational relationships;
- Revitalising damaged or broken social networks and infrastructure of social support;
- Strengthening and elevating social norms that promote or encourage healthy behaviours, community connection and community oriented positive social norms;
- Encouraging participation in sport and sporting clubs
- Supporting movements to restore political-economic and psychosocial autonomy among partially colonized peoples;
- Workforce development;
- Increasing community wealth and resources (social capital);
- Changing the narrative about the community and the people in it;
- Shifting community social norms.

Physical/built environment actions include:

- Creating safer public spaces through improvements in the built environment by implementing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles;
- Creating or improving safe parks and public spaces;
- Encouraging public ownership, participation, and connection to public spaces through events and activities;
- Housing quality;
- Transportation.



Economic/ educational environment actions include:

- Individual Placement and Support (IPS) workforce participation support programs for marginalised and vulnerable groups (which includes ex-prisoners);
- Educating and raising awareness about equity issues among the public, and decision-makers in the justice and other social and health sectors
- Economic empowerment/ opportunity projects;
- Organizing and promoting regular positive community activity;
- Using data on inequities to design and evaluate policies, programs, services inequities;
- Developing knowledge, skills, and attitudes in the prevention workforce related to addressing inequities;
- Engaging in advocacy with or on behalf of equity-seeking populations;
- Collaborating with other sectors to address social/structural determinants of health such as housing and food security, education, and a living wage (through increased minimum wage and social assistance rates or, ideally, a guaranteed minimum income);
- Providing a voice and element of power for community members around shifting and changing environmental factors as well as the structural factors;
- Promoting and restoring a connection to and sense of cultural identity, which has been shown to have a positive impact on social outcomes.

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LEIGH GARRETT, OARS COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS



Leigh Garrett is the Chief Executive Officer of OARS Community Transitions and the Centre for Restorative Justice. Leigh has been a passionate advocate for restorative approaches to justice since 1996. In 1997 he established the Centre for Restorative Justice – a response to significant community feeling that different approaches to justice were needed to ensure that the current Criminal Justice System did not contribute even further to the damage and harm experienced by victims of crime.



The Home Detention Integrated Support Services Program (HISSP)

The HISSP provides reintegration and support services for all offenders on Home Detention and Intensive Corrections Orders. The program is also available to female offenders on Parole and Intensive Bail Supervision; a cohort which was been identified as having a high risk of breaching and reoffending that would benefit from support to improve order completion rates. OARS Community Transitions operates this programme in collaboration with the Department for Correctional Services under a 3+3+3-year contract.

Offenders are known to face a range of difficulties on release from prison; research has identified the following critical domains necessary to support an offender in the community:

- Housing (assistance to access housing and support to maintain a tenancy);
- Mental health;
- Alcohol and drug support;
- Employment (support to source and sustain);
- Education and training;
- Independent Living skills;
- Financial counselling;
- Gambling support; and
- Family and Community Connectedness (including issues relating to domestic and family violence).

Through HISSP, participants have access to assistance based on their individual needs against the domain areas outlined above. Support is available at three levels of intensity dependent on the need of the individual. All offenders on a HD order receives an intake assessment from OARS CT to determine if a support package is required and the level of support package. Participants are supported for 2 years post-programme with a Keep in Touch service that provides funding for formal assistance to resume if circumstances are challenging for the participant.

Benefits and Results Achieved:

HISSP is achieving the following benefits for participants, DCS and the community:

- Reduced pressure on the prison system resulting in fewer costs associated with imprisonment;
- Improved community and family connectedness for offenders on HD;
- Minimisation of the harm and economic loss associated with imprisonment, including separation from family, disconnection from support services, and loss of employment and stable housing;
- Engagement of offenders in community service activities to provide opportunities for community reparation for their offending;
- Reduction in the possibility of short-term imprisonment inflating an individual's risk of reoffending due to anti-social networking and loss of protective factors (e.g. employment, housing, relationships); and
- Engagement of participants in case management to address their individual reasons for offending in order to support them to desist from crime long-term.

ICPA (International Corrections & Prisons Association) Community Corrections Award for the Home Detention Integrated Support Services Program (HISSP) in April 2019.

Program commenced 1 November 2017, and 3791 participants have been referred to the program between 01/11/2017-31/03/2023

A recent independent evaluation showed that as well as improving the lives of many offenders and their families and reducing recidivism for programme participants down to about 19% and the programme saved the Department for Correctional Services about \$200m over the first 6 years of the programme.

The independent evaluation is available at this address [Evaluation of Home Detention in South Australia | Social Policy Research Centre – UNSW Sydney](#)



JOHN MAYNARD – SAFE CITIES PLANNING & DESIGN CONSULTANT - NSW

John Maynard is a crime prevention and community safety specialist with a focus on making and shaping safer towns and cities who has been working in the field for over twenty years. He is primarily interested in understanding environmental psychology and criminology and how various situations in a range of different settings influence the way we think, feel and behave. He is interested in the links between human behaviour and the way public and private spaces are planned, designed, and used – or not used. He has taken his background in psychology, public health, and criminology as a crime prevention practitioner to explore how criminal behaviour exploits given situations in specific settings in order to commit a crime or to consider otherwise.

Safer Public Spaces for Women and Girls – Moving Beyond the Patriarchy

For hundreds of years town and city making has been the domain of male politicians, architects, engineers and planners. From suburbs, station and street names, signs and advertising billboards, monuments and the ways public spaces have been built by and dominated by men, patriarchy in city planning has, in CPTED parlance, reinforced the territory of men and the gender stereotyping of women. This is arguably not just a failure of our society but a failure of possibility since as the United Nations has pointed out “when a space is occupied by women and girls, it is also occupied by more people in general.”

Gender-based policies in crime prevention and community safety are important because they consider how women and men are affected differently by real and perceived threats of violence and crime. Whether we realise it or not, women navigate towns and cities in a profoundly different way than men in order to feel respected and safe.

Being followed, wolf whistled or inappropriately touched or assaulted by male strangers or acquaintances in public areas can have lasting physical and psychological effects on women and girls. As we know from our knowledge of situational crime prevention much of it is subtle, not easy to identify and difficult to report and invariably involves men exploiting settings where they may isolate a woman or girl where there are few or any people around, where their inappropriate actions may blend in with a crowd or more overtly in a venue where they may stand to gain acceptance from a male peer group.

Women and girls are often forced into employing defensive strategies such as travelling in groups, ignoring harassment when passing groups of men, avoiding train carriages which are crowded and sitting behind the driver with other women on the bus. Some may avoid crowded public areas after dark simply because of the “homosocial” or male domination of our towns and cities at night. In the night-time city, the “safety in numbers” effect or the CPTED principle of natural surveillance may be compromised whereby taking a quieter route where there is less activity to avoid intoxicated men is the preferred route. All these situations reinforce the point that public spaces need to be designed for all including through the gender equity lens.



When challenged about their experiences of harassment and violence, women are invariably accused of either overreacting, lying outright or failing to exercise “common sense.” Arguably these defensive strategies and dubious accusations not only add an extra burden to women and deny them their right to freely access the city, but also remind CPTED proponents and other planning and design professionals that public space is not neutral and that the design of such spaces can either facilitate or impede their use, appropriation and safety for women and girls.

The discourse has promoted a complex range of dialogue relating to the conflict between common sense and calculating risk, precautionary behaviour versus avoidance behaviour, the right to freedom and irrational or paranoid fear, how much can be prevented and how to measure success against victim blaming, the right to safety and security and the demonisation of young men as well as gender specific solutions and segregation and gender relations and integration.



Developing gender-based guidelines, providing gender-sensitive training to employees in public spaces, establishing or expanding Government agencies with a primary remit to address planning and design issues in public spaces from the feminist perspective, providing bystander awareness training to interested citizens, empowering men to speak up when women are being treated or talked about in ways that don't feel right or respectful, increasing the visibility and achievements of women in the public domain through statues and monuments, funding, advocating for and supporting women's rights organisations, displaying public art that depicts a diversity of women and advocating for more women in positions of responsibility in planning, architecture, design and transport are just some of the ways we can begin to highlight and address women and girls' safety in public areas.

Moving forward we must always bear in mind that it is not up to women and girls to adapt to a society that was traditionally built for men who dominated public space. It's up to a progressive, advanced society to recognise that the landscape changed some time ago and adjust itself accordingly. Creating safe public spaces whether by day or night requires a combination of planning, design, regulation, culture and creativity. There is a wealth of evidence that tells us that the safe cities agenda must move beyond the rhetoric for change and make a greater effort to genuinely engage with women and girls as co-designers in planning and designing our towns and cities. Empowering women and girls to play a greater role in shaping their environment while promoting inclusion and participation is a promising place to start.

If you are interested a one-day course is now available on Safer Public Spaces for Women and Girls – Planning and Designing through the Gender Lens. Based on empirical evidence conducted by women with women the course examines gender bias in urban environments, the role that gender has played in constructing cities and systems throughout history, what practical measures can be taken to understand feminist perspectives and approaches to urban planning and design, architecture, transportation and policy and what other towns and cities are doing world-wide to highlight and address women and girls' safety in public areas. The course is open to anyone interested in improving their ability to critically assess urban development from a gender equitable lens and to advance the conversation around empowering women and girls to play a greater role in making and shaping safer environments in towns and cities. Contact Local Government NSW at: Telephone:(02) 9242 4000 or Email: learning@lgnsw.org.au or https://lgnsw.org.au/Public/Public/Events/Learning-and-Development/Courses_staff.aspx



Daniel Fletcher

Daniel is the General Manager for Community and Liveability at the Western Downs Regional Council in Queensland.

A Timeline of Tragedy Towards a Trajectory of Triumph: A Brave Place

Despair: June to August 2022

Once upon a time in the Western Downs region, a series of events unfolded, shaping the narrative of a community's journey from despair to resilience. It began with a research project called '[my future town](#),' where students from Dalby, Jandowae, Chinchilla, and Tara came together in the summer of 2022 to imagine the future of their towns. The task seemed simple: write a postcard describing their hopes and dreams for their future hometowns. Little did they know that their responses would reveal a deep sense of sadness, lacking hope, aspiration, and excitement for the future.

Shootings: December 2022 - January 2023

The gloomy cloud hanging over the region grew darker when tragedy struck on December 12, 2022. [The Wieambilla police shooting](#) claimed the lives of police constables Matthew Arnold and Rachel McCrow, as well as a neighbour, Alan Dare. This shocking incident shook the entire nation, as details emerged, pointing to a religiously motivated terrorist attack. The community mourned the loss and grappled with the aftermath of this senseless act of violence.

Just weeks later police then responded to, and charged, two 16-year-old boys over another shooting incident in the town of Tara.



Fires: January 2023 - March 2023

As if the wounds were not deep enough, nature added its own fury to the mix. From January to March 2023, the Western Downs faced some of the largest rural bushfires in recent memory. Acres upon acres of land succumbed to the flames, leaving behind a trail of devastation. The statistics were harrowing, with over 90,000 hectares burned and 38 fires lasting over four hours. The largest fire, the Myall Park fire north of Miles, burned for 12 agonising days, consuming an area of 45,000 hectares. It became the single largest bushfire event in Queensland's recorded history, leaving 28 structures destroyed in its wake. The causes were varied, with lightning, accidental incidents, and even arson contributing to the chaos.

Yet, within the ashes of tragedy, a spirit of resilience began to emerge. The Western Downs community, galvanised by these heart-wrenching events, rose united. They understood that they had to chart a new course for their region, one that would honour the memories of those lost and pave the way for a brighter future. They embarked on a journey to develop and deliver a 10-year place-based strategy, envisioning a Western Downs that not only recovered from the tragedies but also became a pioneering region supporting the renewable energy industry while preserving its proud agricultural heritage.



This strategy is becoming more than just a plan; it symbolises hope, determination, and a commitment to rebuilding. It aims to transform the region into a beacon of innovation, a place where renewable energy and agriculture coexist harmoniously. The Western Downs community rallied together, drawing strength from their shared history and a collective desire to shape their destiny.

Now, as the sun rises over the Western Downs, casting its warm glow upon a resilient community, there is a sense of anticipation in the air. The tragedies of the past have become the catalysts for a brighter future. The wounds may still be healing, but the Western Downs stands tall, ready to turn their timeline of tragedy into a trajectory of triumph.



Together, they have created a brave place—a place where the wounds of the past can be transformed into seeds of resilience, where hope can flourish, and where the community can emerge stronger than ever before. The Western Downs community is ready to write a new chapter in their history, one filled with triumph, unity, and a boundless spirit that knows no limits.

And so, the journey continues, as the Western Downs embraces the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, with a shared determination to build a future worthy of their unwavering spirit.

Why this matters to the Australian Crime Prevention Council?

Across the Western Downs the community is rising to design a place-based community and industry led strategy, the Western Downs Futures group. The outcomes that have been delivered thus far include:

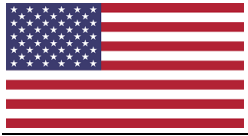
- QPS confirming 15 surplus positions located across the region, which will aim to lower the crime rate across the region
- Department of Housing is supporting a Local Housing Action Plan will aim to reduce homelessness and housing insecurity
- Department of Housing has collected and is preparing state data for the Western Downs Futures action plan

The Western Downs Futures group aims to prioritise education, housing, health, employment, and youth which will assist in the prevention of crime and facilitate community safety into the future. This aligns with ACPC's objectives to 'assist and promote the prevention of crime by encouraging participation by citizens in the prevention of crime' (ACPC, History and Background).



CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OVERSEAS

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Dr. Arthur J. Lurigio is Associate Dean for Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences. He is a psychologist and a Professor of Criminal Justice and Psychology. He is also the Director of the Center for the Advancement of Research, Training and Education (CARTE) at Loyola University Chicago and the Senior Research Advisor to Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities. Dr. Lurigio has a wealth of knowledge and experience researching substance use and crime and the interface between mental health and the criminal justice systems. He has published more than 300 books, chapters, articles, and technical reports.

The Unbidden Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Rise of Social Isolation and Violence and a Path to Post-Pandemic Safety

The number of people murdered in the United States annually fell relatively steadily from the early 1990s to 2014 (1). Unexpectedly, in 2020—the first year of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic—the trend reversed dramatically, marking the highest single-year increase (30%) in homicides nationally since the 1960s (2). In 2021, more than two-thirds of the country's 40 most populous cities reported an increase in homicides compared to 2020 (3). Moreover, 42 acts of gun violence were committed on K–12 campuses during school hours, including the horrific shootings at Oxford High School on November 30, 2021 and Robb Elementary School on May 24, 2022. This article explores the rise in homicides and shootings amid the COVID-19 pandemic. I discuss the correlates of the pandemic as well as gun violence within the population at greatest risk of COVID-19 (i.e., poor people of color). I also discuss basic violence prevention strategies.

Pandemic-Related Correlates of Violence

Social Isolation

Attempts to halt the pandemic altered and restricted social interactions for nearly two years and forced people to rely heavily on their phones, tablets, and laptops for interpersonal communication. The loosening of social ties

fostered incivility and disorder, creating a breeding ground for gun violence. Older adolescent and young adult men commit most homicides (2). This cohort of Americans became more susceptible to pandemic-related disruptions in social interactions and declines in informal social control networks; for them, gun violence often became the default choice for resolving conflicts. The effects of COVID-19 on schools and the use of public spaces were even more troubling. At all levels of education, remote learning was the norm. Consequently, students had limited contact with their teachers and almost none with their fellow students.

Retaliation and Social media

The isolation and social distancing that had already reduced direct encounters with others decreased opportunities to undertake the peaceful and measured social interactions necessary to settle conflicts, confrontations, and disputes. COVID-19 weakened the neighborhood immunity needed to stave off the infectious spread of gun violence. Gun violence can erupt within social networks consisting of people who live in the same neighborhoods and frequent the same stores, schools, and houses of worship. The shooters and victims are the same young men in those neighborhoods. Violence can erupt spontaneously during episodes of perceived disrespect (4). Notably, as COVID-19 limited the scope of communication within the constraints of social media platforms, this made fraught communication harder to resolve and umbrage harder to assuage. Electronic provocations travel instantaneously. They are easily misinterpreted and fueled, allowing no time for de-escalation or face-to-face reconciliation.

Gun Ownership

Guns render violent attacks more lethal in a similar manner to how pre-existing conditions render COVID-19 deadlier. Americans bought 18.9 million guns in 2021—the second highest annual total on record (5). Ghost guns can be ordered online and assembled at home with untraceable parts. The number of guns recovered by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms grew from approximately 7,100 in 2019 to more than 8,700 in 2020. Thousands of recovered guns, purchased in 2020, were used in the commission of crimes shortly after they were bought—some as early as a day after their sale.

Government Distrust

Reduced trust in the government and other institutions (e.g., the police and the courts) also contributed to the rise in homicides. Just as the pandemic was beginning to swell, George Floyd was murdered. Among other reforms, the ensuing Black Lives Matter movement called for a shift in public resources away from police departments and toward social service agencies. Calls to defund the police left officers demoralized and alienated from residents. This undermined their effectiveness and confidence in eliciting residents' willingness to offer crucial support and cooperation in the co-production of neighborhood safety.

Disenchantment with the government, especially with the criminal justice system, has also grown, particularly in light of police abuse caught on body and cell phone cameras. Disrespect for the criminal justice system has led to disregard for laws, less cooperation with the police, lower clearance rates for shootings and homicides, and an attenuation of the authority and power of the system to deter future violent crimes. The pandemic incited Americans to become more disillusioned with the government and less inclined to participate in interventions to slow the progression of shootings and homicides.

The Economic Downturn and Social Inequality

After initially minimizing the effects of the pandemic, the nation's leadership responded with ubiquitous lockdowns, which dramatically altered American life. These changes included quarantines, business failures and closures, job layoffs, unemployment, and decreased income for those already at the lowest socioeconomic strata (i.e., poor young men of color). Higher-income, better-educated workers (i.e., white collar professionals) remained employed and were able to work from home. Struggling with abandonment and facing few prospects for fiscal recovery, poor young men have suffered disproportionately from the pandemic-related economic downturn, isolation, and despair, escalating their frustration and bitterness and proclivity for engaging in violent crime. For centuries, social inequality has spawned violence throughout the world. It continues to do so in the United States as the pandemic rages on (6).

Suggested Solutions

Violence Interrupters

Social network models can be used to develop programs that target these at-risk youth. A first step could be helping youth manage the intense feelings elicited by provocative and recriminatory messages found on social media platforms. The deployment of trained violence interrupters or peer mediators has been proven to be a powerful dispute resolution and de-escalation strategy for stemming violence and promoting healthier (more peaceful) communication. Importantly, interrupters must have the street credibility and skills necessary to bring together diverse members of communities where gang violence and murder are prevalent (7).

Safe Places

Young people need places where they can feel safe. The Fitness Improvement Training Zone Program in East Palo Alto, California, builds outdoor spaces in neighborhoods with rampant gang and gun violence, which can be a bulwark against illegal activities and a means to reclaim shared public spaces. This empowers law-abiding residents to strengthen informal social control mechanisms and dissipate longstanding mistrust between police and residents.

Job Opportunities

Young men belonging to minorities are aware of the prevailing cultural value placed on affluence, which juxtaposes sharply with the abject poverty of their communities and the paucity of economic opportunities therein. Low-paying jobs cannot dispel hopelessness and despondency or dissuade young men from pursuing crime for income and survival. Prospects can arise from training programs that help young men achieve a higher level of employability and more life skills, creating more opportunities for gainful employment and productive lives.

Parental Support

After the acute health concerns of COVID-19 have been addressed, parents must be afforded the tools necessary to create family environments that respond to their children's needs. Supporting healthy early childhood development is integral to stopping violence and preventing young children from being victims or witnesses of violence. When children's needs for a nurturing environment, protection, and education are met, they are far less likely to become involved in violence as they mature. Fostering healthy early childhood development and providing families with the requisite support to achieve this is a sound violence prevention strategy. Additionally, for parents in impoverished communities, assistance in caring for children and adolescents is sorely needed. In grade school,

special resource teachers or mentors ought to be assigned to small classrooms, and they should stay with children requiring special care until graduation. For students at all grade levels, community resources must be allocated to after-school activities geared toward the various abilities and interests of each child. Altering the life course of children is an expensive and time-consuming endeavor. Relieving immediate distress and concurrently developing preventative strategies is the proper course of action, even though these efforts might take years to reach fruition.

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SINGAPORE



PANG YONG

Pang Yong is a Senior Manager with the National Crime Prevention Council, Singapore



The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is a non-profit organisation committed to promoting public awareness of and concern about crime and to propagate the concept of self-help in crime prevention. The Council comprises representatives from the commercial and industrial sectors, as well as from the public sector and the Singapore Police Force (SPF). The NCPC is incorporated as a charity and depends entirely on donations and sponsorships to run its programmes and activities. It is registered as a society with the Registry of Societies.

Combating Scams with Technology

The NCPC is a catalyst, advisor and partner to mobilise the support of groups, organisations and individuals from the community to work closely with the Police to prevent crime.

In recent years, Singapore has been battling the persistent threat posed by scams. Scam messages and calls are a growing concern in today's digital age. With scammers becoming increasingly sophisticated, it is crucial to have reliable safeguards in place to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

The ScamShield app, powered by advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology, is an innovative product to prevent scams in Singapore. With a 95 percent accuracy rate, the app works in the background of mobile devices to filter scam messages and block scam calls from blacklisted scam numbers, protecting users against fraudsters' advances. The ScamShield app also enables users to report scams they encounter to help protect other users. The free-to-download app is developed by Open Government Products (OGP) in collaboration with the National Crime Prevention Council and the Singapore Police Force (SPF).

Filtering and Blocking Scam Messages and Calls

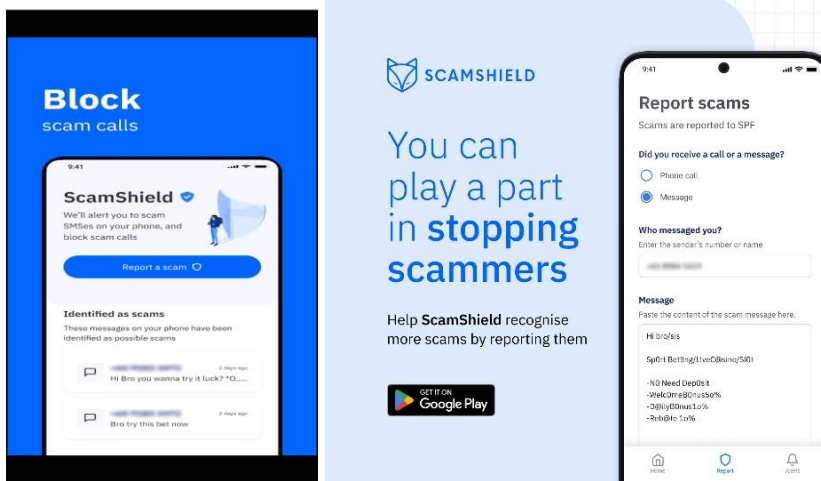
The ScamShield app's first line of defense is to automatically block scam calls and filter scam messages from known blacklisted numbers. By leveraging on a combination of an on-device algorithm and information provided by the Police to determine if an incoming call or SMS is scam-related, users can expect to receive significantly fewer scam calls and messages.

Scam calls and SMSes detected by the algorithm or reported by the public are sent to NCPC and SPF to keep the ScamShield app updated. The ScamShield app also allows its users to report scam messages or calls they encounter.

Collective user reporting contributes to the overall effectiveness of the ScamShield app by providing an additional crowdsourced data point to detect scams.



With over 680,000 downloads (as of 15 August 2023), the ScamShield app has proven to be an invaluable tool in the fight against scams. It has successfully filtered out over 7 million suspicious SMSes and blocked calls from more than 70,000 blacklisted phone numbers.



The NCPC also works closely with the Police, banks, and related industry partners to keep abreast of known scam trends and reports, and to promote the adoption of the app among members of the public.

Privacy Safeguards and User Experience

The ScamShield app adheres to strict privacy rules when performing its functions of blocking scam calls and filtering scam SMSes. It does not filter calls and SMSes that come from users' known contacts, nor access users' location and personal data. The app does not have access to the mobile phone's contact lists and does not require registration with a mobile phone number. Only messages from unknown numbers are read by the AI to determine if it is from a known blacklisted number.

Widespread Use of ScamShield

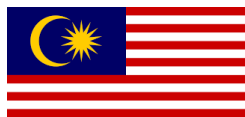
In addition, NCPCC's volunteers, also known as Crime Prevention Ambassadors (CPAs), play a pivotal role in spreading awareness about the ScamShield app. During their ground engagements with members of public, CPAs share information about the app and its usefulness. By providing face-to-face guidance, CPAs help people of all ages understand the importance of using the app, and how to make use of the app's functions.

NCPCC also publicises the ScamShield app prominently at community touch points such as train stations, bus stops, and other public spaces, through mass media such as NCPCC's flagship national TV programme, CrimeWatch, as well as through NCPCC's ScamAlert website, WhatsApp and Telegram channels. This multi-pronged publicity approach helps extend NCPCC's outreach and familiarise the public with the ScamShield app and what it does to help mitigate the risk posed by scams.



For more information on the ScamShield app, please visit the official website: <https://www.scamshield.org.sg/>

MALAYSIA



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Crime Victims Support System and Restorative Justice: Possible Implementation in Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Victims' position is increasingly acknowledged in the criminal justice system across the world. Because of that, criminal justice systems in various countries slowly transform from focusing too much on the relationship between offenders and the legal system and to between the offenders and their victims. Several programs are highlighted such as victim-offender mediation, family group conferences, reparative orders and referral orders in this article. Findings from several studies support the effectiveness of the programs on both the victims and the offenders in terms of several measurements such as satisfaction and recidivism. Looking at this revolution, Malaysian academicians and professionals are beginning to recognize restorative justice as a possible revolution to its criminal justice system, but Malaysian criminal justice system first needs to strengthen or build components that support victims of crime, as this is one of the main principles of restorative justice. Currently, Malaysia still focuses on offenders and their relationship with legal system, but not much with their own victims (physical, emotional, and psychological consequences of the crime). Several possible issues before formal implementation of restorative justice are discussed. The issues (culture, training, and attitude of Malaysian people, including the victims, offenders, and those who work with them) can influence the efficiency of restorative justice programs if not identified systematically. These issues can also be the possible research areas to be ventured in the future as these researches can help in implementation.

Keywords: Restorative justice, Malaysia, criminal justice system, victims, offenders

Crime Victims Support System and Restorative Justice: Possible Implementation in Malaysia

The welfare of victims of crimes is relatively a new issue in criminal justice, as the movements of victims' rights started to form themselves in the United States in the early 1970's (Shapland, Willmore, & Duff, 1985; Austin/Travis County Victims' Services Task Force, 2005; Karmen, 2007), as well as the Great Britain around the similar years. Since the formation of the movements, a heightened awareness was introduced to the people, especially on the

emphasis on the victims' well being to be compensated, and the offenders' chance to make things right in the community and the victims themselves.

There were various reasons that led to the formation of the movements. Both sides of victims and offenders were preoccupied with issues of distrusting, blaming, self-defending, and guilt-riding that made the whole process of criminal justice, at least, complicated (Karmen, 2007). It was added with the circumstances related to the attitude of the legal practitioners in handling the rights of the victims, such as making a fuss when it came to minor offence, the hesitant pace the polices took to handle small cases, and also the condition where the victims' had to wait for their compensation to arrive (Bartol & Bartol, 2004).

Benefits of restorative justice was first noticed in a practice called dispute resolution, where two parties of conflict would meet and have a face-to-face resolution with mediation, without the involvement of court, which later inspired the formation of Victim-Offender Mediation (Doerner & Lab, 2012). Various parties such as the public, because of the satisfaction the practice could bring, and also the government or the legal system – mostly because this way, one case resolved through dispute resolution, there would be one less case to be contended by the court.

Currently in the United States, victims' position in the criminal justice system is increasingly acknowledged and in almost every state there is an association or organization that protects victims' rights, such as The Austin/Travis County Victim Services Task Force (VSTF) in Texas, The New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS). Internationally, there is Victim Support Australasia in Australia, and Victim Support UK in United Kingdom. Although these movements have been advancing in every other country, they seem to still baby-crawl in Malaysia.

One remarkable feat that is witnessed by all these movements of victim rights is the recognition that one way to resolve and mitigate the effects of crime is to bring the victim to the interaction and dialogue with the offender, along with the community (Wenzel, Okimoto, Feather, & Platow, 2008; Wolhuter, Olley, & Denham, 2009). In the interactions, all parties should discuss the best ways to rectify the effects of the offences, and the victim has an opportunity to express their emotion and feeling regarding the crime. The key components of this dialogue are restoration where it is desired to remedy the circumstances back to the condition where the offence has not been conducted.

Although the movements of victim rights already started to advocate the restitution of victims' conditions, the constitution and the whole process of restitution was still decided by the court (Bartol & Bartol, 2004), the victims often expressed discontent on the time taken by the process, making them feel even more frustrated (Karmen, 2007). The victims complained that there were always difficulties in the decision process of restitution, or the police should work more on their sensitivity when dealing with the victims, or in property crime, if their property was obtained from the offender, it seemed to be really difficult for the property to be returned to them in timely manner. All these led to the awareness that victims should play a role in the process of rectifying the offences.

According to Bartol and Bartol (2004), restitution is "an attempt to restore a victim's original financial, physical, and psychological position that existed prior to loss or injury" (p. 193). This kind of recovery is achieved by bringing together the parties that are directly and indirectly affected by the crime, whether they are the doers or the done parties such as the offenders, the victims, families and friends. Aside from its main aim, which is to bring victims forward, restorative justice aims at achieving it with the hope of less adjudicated intervention by the court (Roche, 2006; Roach, 2000).

Other than the victims as one of the major stakeholders in this issue, this policy also wants to make sure that the other parties such as the offenders and the communities to enjoy the contingencies too. Offenders treated by this policy will have a second chance to rectify the harm done and avoid far harsher punishment litigated by the court or the prison personnel (Roach, 2000). The offenders are also given a chance to take responsibility with what they have done and acknowledge the pain it has caused to the victims and the community in general. This is done in relation to one of the values carried out by restorative justice; unanimity in mutual decision by all affected parties (Wenzel et al., 2008; Wolhuter et al., 2009).

Objectives and Some of the Programs of Restorative Justice

Generally, restorative justice desires to attempt at resolving issues involving crime without much aid of adjudicating authority, whose main aim in the criminal justice system is mostly retribution or punishment of the offence (Roche, 2006). Other than that and more specifically, the objectives of restorative justice are:

1. To bring forward victims to play an important role in resolving the conflict, along with their family, community, and of course, offenders (Christie, 1977).
2. To focus more on restoration of justice and reparation rather than punishment (Boonin, 2008; Braithwaite, Restorative justice and responsive regulation, 2002).
3. To promote healthy dialogue between the victims, offenders, and the community to resolve resentment, offer apology or forgiveness, and to harness offender's sense of accountability and remorse (Zehr & Mika, 1998).

These objectives lead to the suggestions and formations of many programs and activities that operate under the notion of restorative justice. The essence of these programs that will be mentioned later in this section is that there is a healthy confrontation – or as it is called a dialogue – between the offender and the victim. The main difference between the regular justice system and restorative justice is that victims will play a vital role in determining the reparation and whether or not the agreement is satisfying to their condition.

Of course these programs should not only focus on the restitution of one aspect of the victims – physical, financial, or psychological aspect, – instead, it should cover all aspects well-being. Most programs of restitution held by the adjudicating authorities are not comprehensive, or insufficient to bring the condition of the crime victims back to the prior state. Some of the programs that are conducted in the practicing countries according to Wolhuter et al. (2009) are:

1. Victim-offender mediation,
2. Family group conferences,
3. Reparation orders, and 4. Referral orders.

Victim-Offender Mediation

Victim-offender mediation program basically holds both the victim and the offender under one same conversation. In the session, there will be a mediator, who basically just helps to ensure the session goes on smoothly (Umbreit, Coates, & Vos, 2004; Wolhuter et al., 2009). However, the mediator is not there to impose any decision, major conversations will be done by the two main actors. The victims are given the opportunity to speak about the harm and to express their emotion and feeling throughout the crime conduct (King, 2004). While, the offender is given a chance to directly be accountable and help as much as possible what the victims have lost in the criminal conduct.

Of course all parties should be willing to participate in the programs (Umbreit, Coates, & Roberts, 2000). However, because of its comprehensive and more 'gentle' way of looking at crime, restorative justice has been on demand by victims and the offenders too, in countries that practice this policy. There are many researches that are conducted to see if victim-offender mediation yields positive results on the victims' satisfactions and offenders' recidivism. A meta-analysis by Umbreit et al. (2000), Umbreit et al. (2004), and Bradshaw, Roseborough, and Umbreit (2006) show that victims were very satisfied with the outcome of the program and the offenders actually experienced less tendency of recidivism in the later time.

Because of its usefulness and effectiveness, victim-offender mediation has been practiced in many countries other than the United States, and the United Kingdom, including South Africa (Venter & Rankin, 2006), Germany (Hartmann, 2008), and New Zealand (Galaway, 1995). Malaysia, seeing the worldwide acceptance of this program, should consider making it as part of the legislative system that focuses on the victims. However, firstly, there is a need on whether or not the concept of victims' priority in legality is well-understood among Malaysians. The finding of such research can be a basis to the implementation of restorative justice and victim offender mediation program in this country.

Family Group Conferences

Family group conferences are an expansion of victim-offender mediation, where in this program, the family of the offenders and the victims will join to participate in the program (Umbreit & Zehr, 1996). The concept is similar to victim-offender mediation. The victim will have an opportunity to speak out about his or her feelings and the offender will have a chance to talk about why the crime is conducted in the first place, apologize and repair the harm that has been done.

Although this program has been used in adult criminal cases, family group conferences are usually conducted to treat cases of juvenile delinquency or cases involving children, hence the need why family members should be involved altogether. The family members, then, help make the decisions along with the mediator's aid (Mutter, Shemmings, Dugmore, & Hyare, 2008). Other than the decision making purpose, the family members are there together with the main parties for another important reason, which is reintegrative shaming.

Braithwaite (2006) proposed reintegrative shaming in the basis that in some places or cultures, some crimes have lower rates because they are unthinkable to begin with. In other words, the people in that place or culture cannot even think or imagine doing the thing, mostly because of the shame. Applying this to restorative justice, Braithwaite asserts that reintegrative shaming has a purpose in reconciling families in the community. By doing that, the offender should begin to feel the shame they should have felt when conducting the crime. The reconciliation process requires the meeting (i.e. family group conferences) to be held two or three times to discuss about the effects of the crime and how to repair it. All the process of discussing, reparation, apologizing, and emotional expressing can bring about shame in the self of the offender.

Reparation Orders and Referral Orders

Reparation orders and referral orders might not be entirely victim-oriented. Reparation orders require the offenders to understand the harms caused by their crime by doing some community works hence it's more community-oriented (Wolhuter, Olley, & Denham, 2009). Similar to reparation orders, referral orders require the offenders to attend a meeting where the offenders take part with the agreement on the programs to treat their criminality. The one problem with these programs is that courts play a main role in deciding what happens to the offenders. Thus, this goes the opposing way from the main purpose of restorative justice, which is to bring the victims forwards in the discussion.

However, with the increasing acknowledgment of the importance of the victim-oriented justice system, the governments in the US or the UK try to include the victims in the process, either in the process before the community work, or in the meeting for the referral orders. For example, as usual, the government will provide a forum for the victims to express their emotions and the offenders to explain why they commit the crime in the first place.

Reparation orders and referral orders with restorative elements can be adopted in Malaysian setting. In its website, Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Malaysia (Social Welfare Department of Malaysia) stated that Malaysia has already had a community service program for young offenders (2009). However, it is entirely decided by the court and the victims have no say in the process. Perhaps by including victims in the decision making process, the programs will have a stronger restorative elements.

Possibility of Implementation in Malaysia

The practice of restorative justice has been widely known to be a better alternative, or the least to be a beneficial addition, to the traditional legal system that usually seeks to marginalize offenders (Rea, 2012). Various types of the practice, such as victim-offender mediation, and family group conferences, instead invite the offenders back to be reintegrated into the community. Offenders are given a chance to be directly accountable to their victims and this reduces chances of relapse (Bradshaw, Roseborough, & Umbreit, 2006).

Other than that, more importantly, restorative justice gives a new way for victims of crime to be able to step forward and voice their feelings and concerns (Rea, 2012). Victims have the chance to redeem the emotional turmoil resulting from the victimization – something that is lacking in current criminal justice system.

Because of this alternative in treating offenders, legal systems or social work practice around the world employ restorative justice as part of their practice.

In Malaysia, there are a few programs that most resemble the victim support as available in abovementioned countries such as the child witness protection program and a program for victims of domestic violence (Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Malaysia, 2009, 2008). Among the acts that seem to have restitution for the victims – with specific target population – are Criminal Procedure Code, the Child Act 2001, and the Domestic Violence Act 1994 (Zakaria, 2003). Victims of other demographic background will have to be carefully assessed beforehand. If it is found that a particular victim has a family member or relative that could help him or her, no assistance will be given. Aids for victims that are provided are mostly in physical forms such aid financial assistance and shelter, while the only psychological service that is provided is counselling.

A call for restorative justice by Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil (The Star, 2011), and various academicians (Koshy, 2008) is the first step towards recognizing that Malaysia is in need to adopt a new system that can be beneficial to

young offenders. One of the first programs launched by the government was Community Service Order. Community Service is considered as one of the programs of restorative justice because of its principle in reintegrating the offenders back to society.

However, the recognition is restricted to the scope of young offenders, while restorative justice was built over the years because the advocators of this idea wanted the victims' voice and rights to be recognized (Rea, 2012). Even with some of the components in Malaysian juvenile justice system that have parallel principles with restorative justice, UM law associate professor Norbani Mohd Nazeri, in an e-mail communication, emphasizes that restorative justice is not practiced at all (N. Mohd Nazeri, personal communication, 27th June 2012). This might be since victims keep being put aside, and they never have any active role in decision making in the criminal justice system.

As discussed, current legal system has special attention only for children and married adults and their focus is to protect the physical well-being of victims (Zakaria, 2003). It is not exactly in parallel with the conception carried out by the victim rights movements, which are intended for victims of all sorts of crime and for the victims' voice to be heard. The benefits of restorative justice go beyond the victims being able to be restituted, there are also some psychological advantages for victims across ages, races, and genders. Thus, the definition of victims should cover a lot more various crimes such as burglary, highway robbery and even stalking, which are usually forgotten as parts of the affected people. It can become a valuable practice in Malaysia too, but various factors need to be looked into before implementation.

First, there would be cultural factor. Parties that are involved in conducting any one of the types of the practice would be required to understand the general context and culture where the offenders and victims and their respective family live. One of the involved parties is the facilitator, or the social worker. Facilitators do not just facilitate, they also communicate with the offenders and the victims, the community, the families, and other people involved. This would demand their capability to understand the cultural aspect of these people (United Nations, 2006).

The cultural aspects are also important in the general implementation in the first place. Before truly realizing the practice within Malaysian legal system and social work departments, one should ask if the implementation would be not conflict with the culture of the people of Malaysia. Can they participate fully? Can they see it as a positive thing and a way to treat offenders? How about their attitude?

Secondly, restorative justice is a practice that would require certain amount of training beforehand because the population that is dealt with belongs to sensitive one. Should there be independent training, or should restorative justice be a part of social work curriculum? Van Wormer (2006) suggested some steps before integrating knowledge and training of restorative in social work curriculum. However, Van Wormer's suggestions can be useful if a country has advanced development of social work practice. Malaysia is still baby-crawling when it comes to social work education, and to integrate restorative justice training in its curriculum would require an understanding from studies that can support its move.

Thirdly, it is also warranted to see the overall attitude of Malaysian people in the implementation of social work practice in Malaysia. According to Susan Russell (Russell, 2000), some things to consider before implementing the victim-offender mediation would be to see if the victims and the offenders have the clear knowledge on what the practice is all about. Education on what restorative justice is, what it offers, and what it can do to treat offenders need to be thoroughly done before implementation. In addition to their knowledge, even if they know about restorative justice, would they have a positive attitude towards this practice? Attitude can affect effectiveness as

equally as the skills of the facilitators themselves. Hence, attitude research of various parties perhaps need to be conducted beforehand.

Restorative justice has been widely practiced in a lot of countries. However, it is still a new concept in Malaysia. With promising advantages, government in Malaysia should consider creating a policy that ensures the welfare of the victims is taken care of in the criminal justice, which is the main premise of restorative justice. In addition, by implementing restorative justice, Malaysia can narrow down the gap between offenders and community, which is one of the measures to help offenders recover.

Even with the benefits and advantages, there are still needs for studies to discover Malaysians' attitudes, feelings, and perception, especially the victims of crimes, on this concept. Do they feel scared? Do they feel wary? Do they trust the criminals enough to face them? The community might be asked if they are ready to face this revolution of criminal justice system, in which their participation to reduce criminal activities or recidivism among offenders is an important step. And the offenders can be asked regarding their active part to face the victims of their own crime: Are they ready most of all?

This calls for research and education on restorative justice in Malaysia. Social workers can be trained and the government can help in regulating the policy. Institutions can partake a role in providing the means of implementation. All in all, to begin restorative justice in this country, it needs a cooperative hand from various parties to ensure its effectiveness.

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ZIMBABWE



BRILLIANT CHIBURA



Brilliant Chibura is a Conservator with the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy on Zimbabwe, formed in 1987 in order to save the black rhino which were being slaughtered by cross border poachers. The idea was to move them to a central location of the country to discourage the poachers. The 14 owners who gave up their land drew up a constitution in which they agreed to stop agricultural activities, pull down internal fences and stop further construction of buildings. Through this constitution they managed to protect the Black Rhino, wildlife habitat and other wildlife species. Over a period of 20 years the key species, the Black Rhino has produced 66 calves.

Preventing Rhino Poaching Through Anti-poaching, Conservation Education and Community Engagement

Over the years, poaching the rhino for its highly demanded horn has been a major factor in the decline of the animal's population. Numerous myths and legends varying from healing properties, religious and power symbolism fuel the demand. There are five species of rhinos in the world : White, Black, Sumatran, Javan and the greater one-horned, all facing a high risk of extinction.

PROTECTING THE RHINO

The Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy (MBRC) is an intensive Protection Zone Established in 1987 on alienated land, as a response to the sudden and steep escalation in rhino poaching on the Peripheral zones of the land locked Zimbabwe. Over the past three and half decades, the conservancy has been a haven to the critically endangered Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor*). Translocating the rhino to the central region of the country did not only combat poaching and the easiness to rhino horn smuggling, but also offered a suitable habitat that has nurtured a ubiquitous crash in the heart of the Country. The black rhino freely range, naturally foraging without food supplements.

The MBRC encourages collaborative projects with individuals, companies, corporates and NGO partners, channelling funding and support into tangible projects within the Intensive Protection Zone and local communities surrounding the conservancy. Over the years, MBRC has had the ability to scale projects according to available

funding through strategic partnerships, working collaboratively to help safeguard their rhino monitors' and rhino's lives.

PREVENTING POACHING

The MBRC's goal is to stop rhinos from extinction through poaching prevention. Joint daily rhino monitoring patrols are conducted with Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authority (ZPWMA). In 2022 The Conservancy offered a reaction bush camp to the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) Support Unit. This has greatly intercepted and decimated poaching, not only for the rhino but the biodiversity at large. The Conservancy has forged deep trust relationships to cultivate an excellent understanding of the evolving poaching threat, thereby ensuring that it is informed of the real requirements and well positioned to leverage appropriate support. Over the years, the MBRC has had great support from Nicholas Duncan and Save the African Rhino Foundation, Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust, to mention but a few.



Pictures: (Left: MBRC Visit by Geroge Clarke (The Charitable Foundation) Right: commissioning of the ZRP reaction bush camp)

Fairweather days are short-lived in rhino protection operations. Each rhino must be accounted each day and the health status of each individual rhino needs to be noted. The monitoring crew risk their lives each day in the observation process as they approach the dangerous animals for a closer detail, sometimes accidentally too close. Rain washed spoor through the thick forests are the worst nightmare to every rhino monitor. In poor visibility rhino charges can be fatal. Reaction time is minimal. In the rain season road access to closest medical facilities is limited, making it extremely difficult to transport casualties to the closest medical facilities.



Photos : (Improved rescue on Rhino monitoring casualties in the rain)

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Although the MBRC offers refuge to the Black Rhino, the rhino's mega-herbivorous capacity and yet selective feeding habits result in extensive home ranges that reach non protected areas. Humans existing in such areas are

prone to rhino attack. Awareness campaigns are conducted quarterly in collaboration with the Community Liaison Department of the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority of Zimbabwe.

Sebakwe Conservation and Education Centre (SCEC) founded by the UK based Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust serves as an institution that educates local communities and schools in the MBRC catchment area in liaison with traditional leadership on the preservation and protection of flora and fauna. Community leadership are trained to disseminate knowledge on the coexistence of humans and wildlife

so as to curb Human- Wildlife Conflicts and illicit trade of animal products. Annually, the MBRC facilitates a consultative forum with Traditional and community leadership. This platform has, in every year successfully cultured all communities surrounding the Conservancy to actively participate in ecocide prevention. Historically, Chiefdoms have played a pivotal role through customary traditions of wildlife conservation. *Pic: Dangerous game awareness campaign (Bushy Park village primary school)*



Pic :Left (Human Wildlife Conflict Interactive Visit By Chief W. Gwesela (left) MBRC conservator Mr. B.M Chibura (right))Pic Right (Community consultative forum coordinated by ZPWMA and MBRC)

UNCOORDINATED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WITHIN THE INTENSIVE PROTECTION ZONE

As the human population increases, conflict between humans and wildlife has been inevitable. Zimbabwe's land reform program has resulted in the down-sizing of large portions of land to benefit more people. The Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy bemoans new human settlements that have not been well coordinated to facilitate coexistence between wildlife and humans. Habitat loss and fragmentation have adversely affected the biodiversity caused by massive clearance of land for crop farming. A distress call was made to the ministry of Environment, Tourism and Climate. Environmental Impact Assessments have always been compulsory prior to any change in land use by new settlers. However, a few have complied. Top priority is given to livestock and crops. Despite all this, the MBRC and ZPWMA continue to give guidance, orientation and education to everyone within the Intensive Protection Zone to save the rhino from extinction.



Pic : Ministerial Visit to the MBRC (Left to right: Mr Farayi Machaya (C.E.O Zibagwe Rural District Council, Minister of Environment, Tourism and Climate Nqobizitha Mangaliso Ndlovu, Conservator for the MBRC, Brilliant Chibura, Deputy Minister of Environment, Tourism and Climate Barbara Rwodzi, MBRC Chairman Bennie Manyunyire

SOLOMON ISLANDS



Police launch Crime Prevention Strategy 2023-2027

Last December the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force officially launched a Crime Prevention Strategy for 2023-2027. It focuses on the role of police and how they execute their duties to provide a safe, secure, and peaceful Solomon Islands over four years. The Solomon Islands Minister of Police, National Security and Correctional Services, Honourable Anthony Veke, said at the launch that it was set as a platform to implement proactive policing and that crime prevention would continue to be a priority commitment and be promoted in building community trust and confidence in the police. It was aimed at preventing crime and harm by using problem approaches to prevention, intelligence, enforcement, reassurance, and support. It recognized that the police could not fight and prevent crime alone rather to work in collaboration with the community to reduce crime by setting up Crime Prevention Committees (CPCs) and assist them with relevant skills to solve their problems. New Zealand Police Advisors would present to assist the RSIPF to develop its own version to prevent crime and community policing, and advisers would assist with training to support the police on preventative policing objectives. The Solomon Islands had been represented at the ACPC International Forum in Townsville in 2007 by then DPP Ronald Bei Talasasa. ACPC is pleased to learn that he was appointed in March 2023 as a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Solomon Islands, and sincerely congratulates him upon this appointment.



Acting Governor General Sir Albert Palmer and Justice Talasasa with fellow High Court Judges at Government House

ACPC HISTORY CORNER

The ACPC Seventeenth National Conference was held in Adelaide and Burra in November 1995 Judge Andrew Wilson was then National President. Here is a photo from that time.



The SA Branch in the 1980s: back row Dr Ken O'Brien, Dr Glen O'Brien, Geoff Glanville, Peter Gaughwin, Helen Nichols, Andrew Paterson, Helen Glanville, Leigh Garrett, Peter Norman

Front row: Judge Andrew Wilson, Julie Wilson, Astrid Macleod



ACPC

Australian Crime Prevention Council

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