



OFFICE OF
CRIME STATISTICS
AND RESEARCH

OCSAR NEWS

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Director's Report

While OCSAR's research and evaluation work spans a broad range of topics, one issue that has occupied a great deal of our time over recent years has been that of illicit drugs and its link to crime. This issue is of concern to the community and in response, a number of strategies have been implemented within Justice to increase our knowledge of the illicit drugs/crime nexus and to ensure more effective responses to persons detected for drug and drug-related offending.

OCSAR's workplan clearly reflects this emphasis. We are, for example, currently undertaking long term evaluations of the Police Drug Diversion Initiative, the Drug Court and

CARDS, all of which are designed to provide alternative ways of dealing with offenders. We are also evaluating the Police Drug Action Teams, the Indigenous Community Constable's Working with Drug Action Teams and a drug related community resilience program currently being trialled to address drug related issues at a community level.

OCSAR is also involved in the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) Program and Drug Use Careers of Offenders Program (DUCO). Both of these projects, conducted under the auspices of the Australian Institute of Criminology, are designed to obtain information from arrestees (DUMA) and remanded/sentenced pris-

oners (DUCO) about their illicit drug use and the extent to which this contributed to their offending.

This strong emphasis on illicit drugs and crime has prompted OCSAR to organise a full day seminar on this topic, to be held on 9th December, 2004. This seminar will provide an opportunity to share the key findings from our drug related work with policy makers, practitioners and the community, as well as provide a forum for discussing the implications of those findings for policy and strategic development.

We welcome your participation at that seminar.

For further information contact Tina Conroy on 8207 1731.

Welcome Bevan

Bevan Fletcher joined the Office of Crime Statistics and Research in June 2004 as a Senior Research and Evaluation Officer. In this role Bevan will undertake a range of evaluations and provide evaluation advice on crime prevention related projects.

Prior to his appointment with OCSAR Bevan worked for three years in an evaluation consultancy firm specialising in evaluations in the health, community and justice sectors. He has worked extensively in the development and delivery of evaluations and with a wide range of organisations and levels of government.

Since joining OCSAR Bevan has completed the writing up of final reports for the evaluation

of the *Fake ID project* and the *Sexual Offence Awareness Program (SOAP)*. Over the coming year Bevan will undertake evaluations of:

- the *Crime Prevention Curriculum Project (DECS)*; and
- the *Bush Breakaway Indigenous Youth Mentoring Project* based in Ceduna.

In addition, Bevan is assisting the Northern Metropolitan and Whyalla Regional Crime Prevention Committees and *SAPOL's Bluelight Camps* to evaluate their respective initiatives.

If you have any questions regarding Bevan's capacity to assist you by providing advice on the evaluation of crime prevention related initiatives,

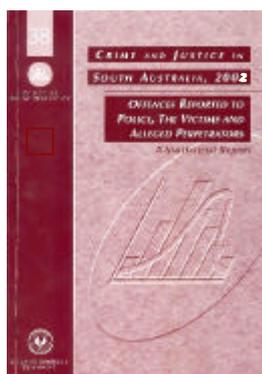


Bevan Fletcher, Senior Research/Evaluation Officer, LLB(Hons) B.Soc.Sc(Hons)

please contact him on 8207 2158 or Bev O'Brien, Manager of Evaluation on 8207 1785.



Government
of South Australia



Crime and Justice in South Australia, Volume 1 - Offences reported to Police, the victims and alleged perpetrators.

Release of Crime and Justice Police Report

The first volume of OCSAR's highly respected three volume 'Crime and Justice in South Australia, 2003' series has been released. This volume covers *Offences Reported to Police, the Victims and Alleged Perpetrators during 2003*. The report, which can be down-loaded from our website (www.ocsar.sa.gov.au), includes statistics on the following issues:

- The number of Police Incident Reports lodged per year;
- The number of offences reported or becoming known to police;
- The clearance status of offences;
- Age and sex profiles of victims of offences recorded by police;
- The number of offences cleared by way of an apprehension; and
- The number of persons apprehended.

Key findings from the report:

- 284,608 offences were recorded by police during 2003 (4.2% fewer than 2002).
- With the exception of driving offences and sexual offences, all major offence categories recorded a decrease in 2003 (see table below).
- A total of 115,172 charges were laid by police (3.2% lower than in 2002) on 59,063 separate apprehension reports.
- On average, each apprehension report lodged by police during this twelve month period contained 1.95 charges.
- Over the same time period, a total of 37,942 discrete individuals were apprehended, giving an average of 1.56 apprehensions and 3.04 charges per person in 2003.
- Males accounted for the majority of apprehension reports lodged (80.6%) and the majority of discrete individuals apprehended during 2003 (79.0%).
- Persons of Aboriginal appearance constituted 13.3% of all apprehensions and 9.3% of all persons apprehended, where information on a person's racial appearance was recorded.
- In 2003, as in previous years, a small proportion of individuals were responsible for a high proportion of all charges laid during the twelve month period. In fact, 11.8% of persons apprehended in 2003 were responsible for 42.1% of all charges laid by police.

For further information on the Crime and Justice publication series please contact Natalie Gatis, ph (08) 8204 9569.

A total of 37,942 individuals were apprehended during 2003 with each person being apprehended an average of 1.56 times

Selected Offences	2003 Percentage change
Offences against the person, excluding sexual offences	-4.4%
Sexual Offences	+10.3%
• Rape	+25.2%
• Indecent assault	+8.7%
• Unlawful sexual intercourse	+3.1%
• Incest and other sexual offences	-2.1%
Robbery offences	-17.7%
Offences against property	-6.7%
• Serious criminal trespass dwelling offences	-18.5%
• Larceny/illegal use of a motor vehicle	-9.1%
• Larceny from a shop	-19.8%
• Fraud and misappropriation	-19.4%
Drug offences	-19.3%
• Possess drug implement offences	-35.7%
• Possess for sale/sell drug offences	-18.9%
• Possess and/or use drug offences	-15.2%
Driving offences	+4.6%
• Driving licence offences	+7.1%
• Motor vehicle registration offences	+7.0%
• Dangerous, reckless or negligent driving	-4.6%
• Drink driving, related offences	-0.3%
Offences against good order	-1.7%
Other offences	-12.7%

Evaluation Advice Service

In February 2004 OCSAR commenced a 12 month pilot of an Evaluation Advice Service. In many respects this formalised an already growing role which OCSAR was being asked to fulfil by criminal justice agencies within the Portfolio. The objectives of the Evaluation Advice Service are:

- To improve the commitment to evaluation by criminal justice (and related) agencies;
- To build the capacity of criminal justice (and related) agencies to undertake evaluations;
- To increase the number and range of programs which are evaluated; and
- To improve the evidence base, via evaluation, for the success/shortcomings

of criminal justice related programs and policies.

The response to this new service has been positive and at times a little overwhelming. We are doing our best to service requests for assistance and support. We have recently reviewed the requests made to date and are in the process of developing protocols for prioritising future requests. Some of the types of assistance that we have provided include:

- training for small groups of staff;
- facilitation of project group meetings to scope projects and their evaluation;
- development of data collection instruments;
- preparation of evaluation

frameworks; and

- participation on staff/consultant selection panels.

If you would like to talk to us further about this service, please contact Bev O'Brien, Manager of Evaluation, on 8207 1785.

When you are setting objectives for your project it's important to be precise. That way you will be able to measure whether or not you have achieved your objectives and if the objectives were in fact reasonable to begin with. Keep the SMART principle in mind. Make sure your objectives are:

***S - Specific
M - Measurable
A - Action oriented
R - Realistic
T - Timed***

What's New at OCSAR

Evaluation of the Fake ID Project

This recently completed joint project between the Sturt Drug Action Team, the Office of the Commissioner of Liquor and Gambling, and OCSAR looked at the effectiveness of a pamphlet distributed to upper high school students dealing with the consequences of using fake or altered forms of identification and the number of detected fake or altered forms of identification used to obtain entry to licensed premises in the Sturt Local Service Area.

Evaluation of the Sex Offence Awareness Program

This project conducted by the South Coast Drug Action Team with input from a range of services was evaluated by OCSAR. The program comprised of two lessons provided to upper high school

students aimed at raising their awareness of socialising, promoting safe practices and reducing the number of adolescents putting themselves at risk and potentially becoming the victim of sex related crimes. The evaluation provided useful information about young people's level of knowledge and practices and how the program could be improved.

Evaluation of the trial of Indigenous Community Constables working with Drug Action Teams

This work was commissioned by SAPOL to assist them in understanding the extent to which the objectives of the trial were achieved, the effectiveness of the model in responding to drug related harm in Indigenous communities and the extent to which the Community Constables were able

to enhance the operation and effectiveness of the Drug Action Teams.

Monitoring the Adelaide Dry Area

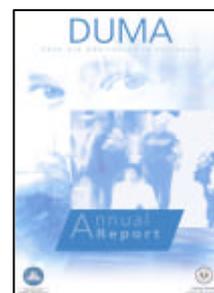
This report is divided into two sections. The first section focuses on the six key objectives of the Adelaide Dry Area Trial and seeks to identify whether these objectives are being achieved. The second section outlines possible strategies for on-going monitoring. (Upcoming Release)

DUMA Quarterly Reports Jan-March, April-June and DUMA Annual Report 2002/03

These reports detail the results of the South Australian operation of Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) Project which measures drug use among those people who have been recently apprehended by police.

Motor Vehicle Theft in South Australia 2003/04

This report provides a snapshot of vehicle theft in Australia for every state and territory. Produced by the National CARS Project for the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council this report provides a statistical reference for stakeholders wishing to develop or evaluate theft reduction strategies.



OCSAR's Seminar Program

ILLICIT DRUGS AND CRIME Exploring South Australia's Response

9th December

A one day **Seminar** presenting findings from a number of OCSAR's drug-related evaluations, including DUMA, PDDI and the Drug Court. The seminar will ask:
What are the implications of these findings for future policy development?

For further information on this seminar please contact
Tina Conroy
ph (08) 8207 1731

We're on the web!
www.ocsar.sa.gov.au

Moving to New Premises

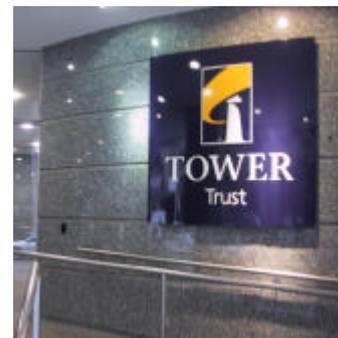
The Office of Crime Statistics and Research has recently moved.

We are now located at the Tower Trust Building, 44 Pirie Street, Adelaide.

The move has enabled OCSAR to be co-located with other units within the Justice

Strategy Division and Strategic Development and Communication.

Despite a new physical location, our postal address, telephone and fax numbers have not changed.



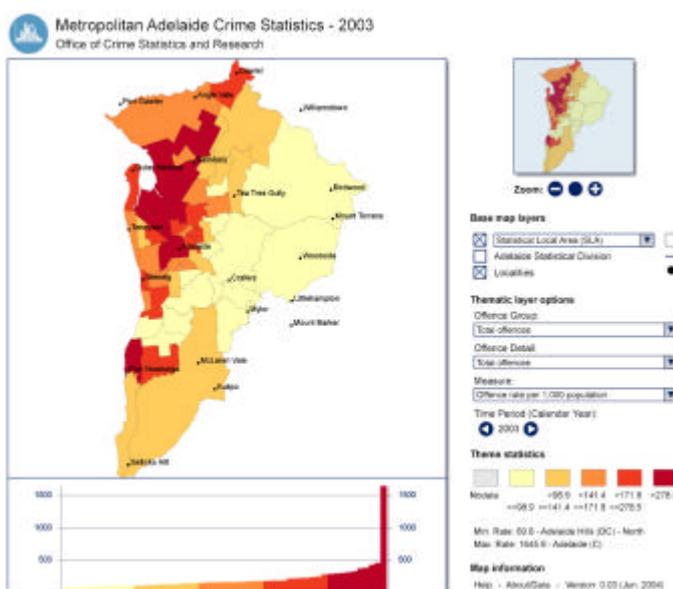
OCSAR to launch a new Crime Mapping tool

OCSAR will publicly release in late November a new interactive tool that allows users to thematically map the geographic distribution of recorded offences.

Developed in-house by OCSAR staff, the application will be available to the public via our website (www.ocsar.sa.gov.au). The application requires an internet browser and the installation of a free downloadable plug-in available from Adobe (see link on the Crime Mapper page).

As well as selecting the type of offence to map, users can select how to measure those offences and also the time period of interest.

The map performs standard Geographical Information System (GIS) functions like zooming in and out, and panning. Base map layers can



be turned on or off. In addition, by clicking once on an area in the map, all offence details are displayed for that area and if required even more detailed profiles can be

ordered from OCSAR via an automated request form.

For further information on the Crime Mapper Application please contact Paul Thomas, ph (08) 8207 1669.

In the next issue of OCSAR NEWS

In our December issue of *OCSAR NEWS* learn more about OCSAR's involvement in the Court Assessment and Referral Drug Scheme (CARDS).

The next issue will also

feature highlights from our Crime and Justice 2003 Report 'Adult Courts and Corrections'.

Look out for the 'What's New at OCSAR' section as there are many more

publications coming your way, including the Evaluation of Drug Action Teams.