



OFFICE OF
CRIME STATISTICS
AND RESEARCH

OCSAR NEWS

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Inside this issue:

Evaluation of the Fake ID Project 2

Evaluation of the Magistrates Court Assessment and Referral Drug Scheme 2

New CARS report 3

What's New at OCSAR 3

Report on ANZSOC Conference 4

Staff Changes 4

Director's Report

One of the essential components of undertaking research in any field of inquiry is to ensure that the results are widely disseminated. This achieves a number of objectives:

- It exposes the work to critical analysis by other researchers in the field, which is useful in determining whether the study's conceptual framework, methodology and conclusions are sound;
- It ensures that key stakeholders responsible for policy and program development have access to relevant information to assist their decision making; and
- by adding to the body of knowledge about crime and criminal justice, it helps inform public and political debate about key issues and initiatives.

In recent years, OCSAR has developed a number of strategies to ensure that the

findings from its various statistical monitoring, research and evaluation projects are circulated as widely as possible. These include publishing our reports on the OCSAR website; circulating this newsletter; convening local seminars at which OCSAR staff present their findings to key stakeholders; making regular presentations to key bodies such as the Criminal Justice Leadership Group, the OCSAR Advisory Committee and various inter-agency Steering Committees; and delivering papers at national and international conferences.

The most recent example of conference participation is the presentation of papers by three OCSAR staff - Grace Skrzypiec, Nichole Hunter and myself - at the 18th Annual Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology (ANZSOC) Conference in New Zealand in February 2005 (refer to page 4 for more information).

The ANZSOC conference represents the most important gathering of academic criminologists in Australasia. As well as providing an opportunity to showcase our work and receive critical feedback from our peers, this conference provided an opportunity to hear about new work being undertaken in other jurisdictions and to establish or renew contacts with researchers engaged in similar areas of study.

While OCSAR recognises that conference attendance needs to be limited because of the costs involved, participation in a small number of carefully selected conferences is an important way of ensuring that the work of the Office remains conceptually and methodologically rigorous, and allows us to contribute to national debate on issues critical to crime and criminal justice.

Joy Wundersitz

Release of Adult Courts and Corrections Report

The third volume of OCSAR's three volume 'Crime and Justice in South Australia, 2003' series has been released. The statistics in this volume cover three main areas:

- Criminal matters finalised in the Magistrates Courts of South Australia;
- Criminal matters finalised in the Supreme and District Courts; and
- Persons supervised by the Department for Correctional Services, either as prisoners or while undertaking community-

based correction orders.

Key findings:

- During 2003, there were 29,206 cases finalised in the Magistrates Court, which is 3.8% lower than the 30,359 cases finalised in 2002.
- *Driving offences* were listed as the major charge in approximately one quarter (24.5%) of these cases, while *offences against good order* accounted for a further 19.6% and *larceny and receiving offences* for 13.0%.
- In 2003, over half of all

cases finalised in the Magistrates Court (53.3%) resulted in the defendant being convicted of the major charge.

- In 2003, there were 56 cases finalised in the Supreme Court and 996 finalised in the District Court, giving a total of 1,052. This was 6.5% higher than the number of cases disposed of in 2002.

For further information, contact Natalie Gatis on ph. 8204 9569.



Government
of South Australia

Evaluation of the Fake ID Project

In 2004 OCSAR undertook an evaluation of the Fake ID Project on behalf of the Sturt Local Service Area (LSA) Drug Action Team (Sturt DAT). The Fake ID Project was a partnership between the Sturt DAT and the Office of Liquor and Gambling Commissioner, aimed at reducing the number of under-age people in the local area using false or altered identification in order to enter licensed premises or purchase alcohol.

As part of the initiative, several strategies were implemented to address the issue. These included:

- The development of a training package and seminar for licensees, managers and staff of licensed premises within the Sturt LSA;
- The production and distribution of an information pamphlet to Year Eleven and Twelve students at all schools within the Sturt LSA; and
- Uniform police spot-

checks on patrons who may be underage at a range of licensed premises within the Sturt LSA.

A predominant focus of the evaluation was a survey of nearly 500 students under the age of 18 years attending selected secondary schools in the Sturt LSA who had received the Fake ID information pamphlet at their school. This survey focused on both responses to the pamphlet and also the respondents' activity in relation to entering licensed premises, purchasing alcohol and using false identification. Some of the main findings identified through the student survey included that:

- Six months after distribution, less than 50% of students recalled receiving the pamphlet and of those students who did, less than 50% recalled actually reading it;
- The majority of students (86%) who read the pamphlet suggested that it did not change, or only changed a little, their

attitude towards using false identification;

- Approximately half of the underage sample had attempted entry to licensed premises at some point, and slightly over half had attempted to purchase alcohol;
- Around one-fifth and one-quarter of students who had attempted to purchase alcohol or enter licensed premises respectively, had false identification in their possession at their most recent attempt;
- Ninety percent (90%) of those students attempting to enter licensed premises and 89% of those students attempting to purchase alcohol were successful at their most recent attempt.
- Of those students who possessed no false identification, 87% attempting entry to licensed premises were successful on their most recent attempt, and 84% attempting to purchase alcohol were successful; and
- Seventy-three percent

(73%) of those students attempting to enter licensed premises and 80% of those students attempting to purchase alcohol were not asked to present identification at their most recent attempt.

The findings, whilst only true for the sample of students surveyed, raise interesting questions for police and policy makers in this area. Clearly, vigilance in asking for identification is required by licensed premises. Indeed, with only a fifth to a quarter of the underage students in this sample possessing false identification at their most recent attempted entry or alcohol purchase, it is clear that a considerable number of underage people are entering licensed premises or purchasing alcohol without identification.

For further information, contact Bevan Fletcher, Senior Evaluation Officer, ph 8207 2157.

Evaluation of the Magistrates Court Assessment and Referral Drug Pilot Scheme

The Magistrates Court Assessment and Referral Pilot Scheme commenced at Port Adelaide on the 28th of June and at the Adelaide Magistrates Court on the 8th June, 2004. It is one of a number of specialist schemes recently established in South Australia under the National Illicit Drug Strategy. It aims to provide an increased opportunity for drug dependant individuals involved with crime to receive health treatment. It is designed to complement existing strategies such as the Police

Drug Diversion Initiative (PDDI) and the Drug Court.

The CARDS scheme targets adults appearing before the Magistrates Court with a demonstrable drug problem who are eligible and suitable for release on bail or bond. It is available to those charged with less serious offences than those dealt with by the Drug Court, as well as individuals charged with simple possession offences who have not been diverted to health treatment through PDDI.

The evaluation framework and methodologies

implemented by OCSAR in early 2004 are primarily designed to measure changes in offending levels and health outcomes for individuals involved with the scheme. The study further aims to collect interview data from key stakeholders and participants about the operation and therapeutic benefits of CARDS. The evaluation also has a particular focus on assessing Indigenous involvement with the scheme.

Early results from the CARDS evaluation have been presented to the CARDS Steering Committee and the Illicit Drugs

and Crime seminar held by OCSAR in December, 2004. Ongoing data collection and analysis continues to provide key information on participant profiles and associated socio-demographic and drug use issues as well as details on project implementation and management concerns. The evaluation is expected to conclude in June, 2006.

For further information, contact Bev O'Brien, Evaluation Manager, ph 8207 1785.

New CARS Report - featuring upgraded styling and improved usability

OCSAR's National CARS team have recently released their 2003/04 Annual Report on CD.

In the words of automotive marketing staff, this new report would be described as 'more than a cosmetic facelift. It incorporates improved handling to enable users to swiftly move to where they want to go'.

According to CARS Director, Paul Thomas, "The new interface has been developed to enable simpler navigation to the hundreds of tables, graphs and maps contained in the 700 page report." The CD contains both national trends and detailed profiles of each State and Territory which can be viewed and printed as a whole, or specific statistics can easily be found using levels of subject navigation.

An added feature of the CD is the inclusion of CARS



Knowledge Bank. This is a valuable tool for people interested in keeping abreast of national and international research on vehicle theft, with summaries of research grouped by key subjects, publication details and, where available, direct internet links to the publications.

First and foremost the report is designed to provide

a detailed analysis of vehicle theft in Australia during 2003/04. In this regard, it reveals that Australia recorded a total of 88,030 thefts during 2003/04, with numbers falling for the third consecutive year. This represents a 13% decrease over the 2003/04 figure of 101,218 and a massive 37% reduction from the 2000/01 total of 139,222.

Australia's yearly theft rate equates to 6.4 thefts per 1,000 registered vehicles or 4.4 thefts per 1,000 population. The recovery rate decreased slightly compared to the previous year, with 75.4% of vehicles

recovered by the end of 2003/04.

Nearly half (48.6%) of the vehicles stolen were manufactured during the 1980s, while 1990 models accounted for another 31.7%. Recovery rates were lowest for vehicles manufactured from 2000 onwards (60% recovered).

In contrast to the overall declining vehicle theft trends, motorcycle thefts rose by 7.9% to 6,065 during 2003/04. Motorcycle recovery rates were significantly lower, with only one quarter recovered by the end of the year.

The average cost per claim to insurance companies for 2003/04 was \$8,476.

To 'test drive' your own copy of the new limited edition CARS report contact Tina Conroy on ph 8207 1731.

Comprehensive Auto-theft Research System (CARS) is funded by the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council to provide comprehensive and timely data upon which effective crime prevention strategies can be developed and evaluated. The CARS database integrates information from police, registration authorities, insurance companies, vehicle manufacturers and other related sources from across Australia.



What's New at OCSAR

Juvenile Justice in South Australia: Where are we now? Information Bulletin

This Information Bulletin provides an overview of some historical aspects, and presents some statistics on how the current system is working.

Incidents and Offences reported to Police in 2003. Information Bulletin

This Bulletin is the first in a series of Information Bulletins and provides a descriptive summary of the statistics contained in the publication *Crime and Justice in South*

Australia 2003, Offences Reported to Police, the Victims and Alleged Perpetrators.

Major Changes to the Criminal Law in South Australia 1998-2004

This report details the significant legislative changes that have taken place between 1998 and 2004, and comments upon the potential impact these changes will have on the criminal justice data collected.

JANCO/JASOC Classification System

Technical Reports.

The JANCO classification system was adopted throughout the Justice Information System and the Courts Administration Authority in 1992 and is managed and administered by the Office of Crime Statistics and Research. JANCO is an adaptation of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' ANCO (Australian National Classification of Offences, 1985. Catalogue No. 1234.0) classification system. In 1997 the Australian Bureau of Statistics introduced the

Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC) (Australian Standard Offence Classification, 1997. Catalogue No. 1234.0), to replace ANCO. This paper provides the conversion table maintained by the Office of Crime Statistics and Research to allow reporting by the JANCO or JASOC Classification system as required.

These publications are available to download from our website: www.ocsar.sa.gov.au

Report on ANZSOC Conference

In early February 2005 three OCSAR staff presented at the 18th Annual Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Conference entitled "Crime, Community and the State". The OCSAR delegates were Grace Skrzypiec, Nichole Hunter and Joy Wundersitz. Grace outlined the key findings from our evaluation of the Drug Court Pilot Program; Nichole presented the results from the evaluation of two Legal Services initiatives designed to reduce the number of remanded prisoners; and Joy detailed the findings from our evaluation of the Magistrates Court Diversion Program.

This year's conference was hosted by the Institute of Criminology, University of Wellington, New Zealand and was attended by over 350 delegates from Europe, Asia, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. During the three days of the conference there were nine sessions, each

comprised of six simultaneous panels covering a broad range of topics, as well as three plenary addresses. The conference commenced with a "Powhiri" (Maori welcome ceremony) and an address by the Right Honourable Dame Sian Elias, Chief Justice and Head of the Supreme Court of New Zealand entitled "Criminology in the age of talkback".

The first plenary session, presented by Professor Liz Kelly (Director, Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit, London Metropolitan University), was entitled "A gap or a chasm? Perspectives on attribution in reported rape cases". Professor Kelly noted that, despite increased reporting of rape, the number of prosecutions and convictions has remained relatively static and considered how this gap might be bridged.

In the second plenary address,

entitled "Policing in a new era", Professor David H Bayley (Dean, School of Criminal Justice, State University of New York) spoke of three current developments in policing, namely its internationalisation, its devolution to the community and its privatisation, and discussed the implications and challenges presented by each of these movements.

Finally, Professor Barbara Hudson's (Professor of Law, University of Central Lancashire, UK) plenary session entitled "Justice and the Limits of Community" was concerned with the relationship between justice and the community, given that community is currently the 'big idea' in crime prevention and justice, while at the same time there is evidence of a disintegration of community.

Planning for the 19th ANZSOC conference, scheduled for 2006 in Hobart is underway.

Staff Changes

Justine Doherty has recently departed OCSAR. At her farewell gathering in December 2004 it was noted that, having spent more than 10 years with the Office, Justine was not only one of OCSAR's longest serving employees, but was witness to a period of considerable change within the Office. This also applied to her own role at OCSAR.

Justine commenced work at the Office in 1993 as a project officer. During the mid 1990s she was responsible for the development and management of OCSAR's juvenile justice databases, which also involved extracting data for the Office's annual *Crime and Justice: Juvenile Justice* reports.

However, in recent years, while maintaining an interest in juvenile justice, she moved away from data management to focus on research.

After returning from 12 months leave of absence, in late 2004

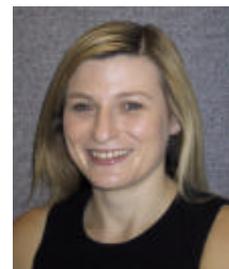
Justine decided it was time to pursue other options. In the short term, this will involve travelling overseas, while her longer term goal includes moving interstate to be closer to her family. We would like to thank Justine for her contribution to the Office and wish her all the best for the future.



*Justine Doherty
Senior Research Officer*

In January 2005 we welcomed Brianna Kenneally to the position of Research Officer at OCSAR. Brianna first joined OCSAR in 2003 on a temporary contract. Since that time she

has ably undertaken a number of responsibilities in the Office relating to information provision, administration, research and evaluation. Brianna holds a Bachelor of Arts with majors in both Psychology and English Literature and has a Graduate Diploma in Criminology. In 2005 Brianna will be assisting with the final stages of the evaluation of the Police Drug Diversion Initiative. She is also responsible for the preparation of the Illicit Drug Performance Indicators for the Justice Portfolio.



*Brianna Kenneally
Research Officer*



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