

Research in Progress

CRC 04/06-07: Jury Sentencing Survey

Professor Kate Warner, Dr Julia Davis, Dr Maggie Walter, Dr Rebecca Bradfield

The project aims to improve the measurement of public attitudes to sentencing matters and the level of public knowledge of sentencing and related issues. A three-phase research design will survey jurors in trials with a guilty verdict immediately following the verdict and again after the jurors are provided with sentencing information. Survey results will be supplemented by follow up in depth interviews with a reflective sample of jurors. The results of the research will allow policy makers to respond to informed public opinion with the ultimate aim of improving confidence and confronting public punitiveness.

CRC 24/07-08: Analysis of supervision skills of juvenile justice workers

Associate Professor Chris Trotter and Professor Gill Mclvor, Monash University

This research will examine the nature and effectiveness of different styles of community based supervision for offenders. The research will be conducted in collaboration with the Department of Juvenile Justice in NSW. The study sample will include 50 juvenile justice workers and 250 juvenile justice clients (5 clients for each worker). Data will be collected through observation of worker / client interviews, follow up interviews with the clients and the workers and outcome data from files and police records. The study will provide information about what goes on in worker / client interviews and what works best in fostering compliance and reduced recidivism.

CRC 10/08-09: Oral language competence and interpersonal violence: exploring links in incarcerated young males

Dr Pamela Snow and Professor Martine Powell, Monash University

This project will build on prior research conducted by the Principal Investigators, who have shown that unidentified oral language deficits are present in over 50% of a community sample of male youth offenders. Such deficits include difficulties

using and understanding everyday spoken language and may be undetected / misinterpreted by the communication partner. In this study, the prevalence of such deficits will be examined in an incarcerated sample (n=100), and links to violent offending (the most severe form of disrupted interpersonal behaviour) will be examined. Findings will inform both theory and practice in offender treatment programs, where verbally mediated interventions are common.

CRC 26/08-09: Developing successful diversionary schemes for youth from remote Aboriginal communities

Dr Kate Senior, Dr Richard Chenhall, Mr William Ivory and Dr Tricia Nagel, Menzies School of Health Research

This study aims to investigate youth gangs in a remote NT Indigenous community. Diversionary schemes for Indigenous youth need to be based on an evidence-base for gang membership's negative effects (substance misuse, crime and violence) and positive effects (high self esteem, low rates of self harm and suicide). This three-year longitudinal project, utilising mixed methodologies, will gain an in-depth understanding of youth gang membership and more broadly the aspirations and life goals of the youth involved. In close association with an Indigenous run diversion project, the most appropriate diversionary activities for Indigenous youth will be investigated.

CRC 38/08-09: 'Sudanese refugees' experiences with the Queensland criminal justice system

Dr Garry Coventry, Dr Glenn Dawes, Dr Stephen Moston & Dr Darren Palmer, James Cook University

This study consists of an eighteen-month longitudinal study which will focus on how Sudanese refugees interact with the Queensland criminal justice system. The study is original because it employs a multi-methodological approach in gaining the perceptions of Sudanese people who are either the victims or perpetrators crime. Other data sources include examination of key police databases, interviews with police and support agencies and a discourse analysis of media reportage about Sudanese integration in the state. Another

potential significant outcome of the research relates to the development of a streamlined procedure for measuring race related crime.

CRC 42/08-09: ID scanners in night-time economy: social sorting or social order?

Dr Darren Palmer, Dr Peter Miller and Dr Ian Warren, Deakin University

The project investigates the introduction of ID scanners in 'high-risk' entertainment venues in Geelong (VIC) as part of an attempt to enhance community safety. Recently the inner city area of Geelong has been transformed into a significant 'night-time economy'. However, such developments come with potential harms, such as increases in crime and anti-social behaviour. Networked ID scanners are a unique innovation introduced to address these issues. The project documents what has been done, why, with what impact and potential (or actual) harms exist to serve as a model for future policy and program development.

CRC 11/09-10: Sentencing of Indigenous offenders in the Lower Courts: a study of three Australian jurisdictions

Dr Samantha Jeffries, Dr Christine Bond
QLD University of Technology

Disparity in the application of criminal justice has long-term negative consequences for individuals, their communities and society. This research will examine Indigeneity and equity in the sentencing of offenders in Australia's lower courts. Prior empirical research into sentencing and Indigenous status is limited to trend analyses or a narrow range of sentencing outcomes. No rigorous research has been conducted specifically on Australia's lower courts. The project addresses this gap by using rigorous research techniques to examine the process by which Indigenous and non-Indigenous offenders are sentenced in three Australian lower court jurisdictions: New South Wales, South Australia, and Western Australia.

CRC 13/09-10: Child sexual abuse and subsequent offending and victimisation: a 45 year follow-up study

Prof James Ogloff, E/ Prof Paul Mullen, Ms Margaret Cutajar Monash University

This study aims to examine the relationship between child sexual abuse (CSA) and

subsequent criminal offending and victimisation, and to examine the mediating role of mental illness on apparent associations. This 45-year follow-up study involves the linkage of 2759 CSA cases derived from records from the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine to a Victorian Police database, identifying contacts for criminal and victimisation matters. The CSA cohort will be compared to a control group matched on gender and age groupings to determine whether victims of CSA are at an increased risk of offending and victimisation, which is hypothesised to be affirmative.

CRC 02/09-10: Assessing the therapeutic climate of prisons

A/Prof Andrew Day, Dr Sharon Casey, Dr James Vess Deakin University

Correctional administrations across Australia have, in recent years, dedicated considerable resources to the development of offender rehabilitation programs. Whilst few controlled evaluations of Australian correctional programs have been conducted, there is a long history of anecdotal and ethnographic observations relating to the nature of prison cultures and their possible deleterious effects on rehabilitative outcomes. This project aims to investigate the social climate of Australian prison units; validate a brief scale (the EssenCES) for assessing prison social climates; provide a comparison between different types of unit; and develop recommendations for improving the therapeutic context in which rehabilitation programs are offered.

CRC 38/09-10: Addressing the 'crime problem' of the Northern Territory Intervention: alternate paths to regulating minor driving offences in remote communities.

Dr Thalia Anthony, Dr Harry Blagg
University of Technology Sydney

This research examines a major effect of the increased policing in Northern Territory Indigenous communities since the Intervention: the sharp rise in minor driving offences, especially driving unlicensed, an uninsured vehicle and an unregistered vehicle ('driving offence trifecta'). Data from Northern Territory court lists will be collected to assess the extent of Indigenous driver

criminalisation. Then interviews will be conducted to ascertain the reasons for offending and criminalisation. The case studies are Yuendumu and Lajamanu where the investigators have observed accelerating rates of driving offence. This study will propose alternative for regulating the driving offence trifecta, including education and diversionary programs.

CRC 50/09-10: Amphetamine use among detainees at the East Perth watch house: what is the impact on crime?

Mrs Natalie Gately, Dr Catherine McGregor, Ms Jenny Kessell, Prof Steve Allsop, Dr Anthony Gunnell, Dr Celia Wilkinson
Edith Cowan University

Existing data from the Western Australian arm of the Drug Use Monitoring Australia (DUMA) project and reported crime in Western Australia will be analysed. Firstly, amphetamine use indicators from the DUMA data between 1999 and 2009 and the types of crime for which amphetamine users are being detained will be identified and significant relationships analysed. Secondly, amphetamine use indicators will be analysed in relationship to WA reported crime statistics for the period 2002-2008 to identify significant relationships between amphetamine use indicators and reported crime in WA.

Recently Completed Research

CRC 05/07-08: Improving jury understanding and use of DNA evidence

Associate Professor Jane Goodman-Delahunty and Dr Lindsay Hewson,

CRC 15/07-08: The use and impact of diversionary processes for reducing indigenous over representation

Dr Troy Allard, Associate Professor Anna Stewart, Dr Hennessey Hayes and Dr Brett Gray,

CRC 19/07-08: Crime in neighbourhoods: Individuals and families in context

Dr Tara McGee, Dr Rebecca Wickes, Professor Jake Najman & Dr William Bor,

CRC 03/04-05: Preventative detention for 'Dangerous' offenders in Australia: A critical analysis and proposals for policy development

Prof. Bernadette McSherry, Prof. Arie Freiberg and A/Prof. Patrick Keyzer

CRC 04/04-05: Getting the story in forensic interviews with child witnesses

Dr Pamela Snow and Dr Martine Powell

CRC 14/04-05: The relation between psychological adjustment and post-release challenges to community reintegration for ex-prisoners:

Associate Professor Joe Graffam, Ms Alison Shinkfield and Dr Stephen Mihailides

CRC 18/04-05: An investigation into serious violence associated with motor vehicle use: "Is 'road rage' a valid or useful construct?"

Dr Andrew Carroll and Professor James Ogloff

CRC 27/04-05: The young adult outcomes of childhood and adolescent antisocial behaviour: an Australian cohort

Professor Jake Najman, Dr William Bor, Dr Michael O'Callaghan, Professor Gail Williams and Ms Tara McGee

CRC 30/04-05: Schizophrenia and offending: Area of residence and the impact of social disorganisation and disadvantage

Mr Frank Morgan, Ms Vera Morgan, Professor Assen Jablensky, Ms Anna Ferrante and Ms Guilietta Valuri

CRC 06/05-06: Adolescent Stalking: Offence Characteristics & Effectiveness of Criminal Justice Interventions

Dr Teresa Fowler, Dr Rosemary Purcell & Professor Paul Mullen

CRC 35/05-06: A population based study examining the impact of interpersonal violence victimisation on mental health

Dr Lynn Meuleners, Associate Professor Andy Lee and Ms Delia Hendrie

CRC 39/05-06: Parents as prisoners: maintaining the parent-child relationship

Dr Rosemary Sheehan and Mr Gregory Levine

CRC 12/06-07: Investigation of the relationship between survey

**victimisation and perceptions of
criminality: Analysis of the 2005 personal
safety survey**

Dr Joe Clare & Mr Frank Morgan

**CRC 13/06-07: Abuse of female partner in
Bowen Basin region of central
Queensland**

Dr Sanjay Sharma, Ms Heather Nancarrow
and Associate Professor Stewart Lockie

**CRC 15/06-07: Assessing the impact of
'available street time' and mortality on
estimates of recidivism**

Ms Anna Ferrante, Mr Max Maller and Ms
Nini Loh

**CRC 02/04-05: The impact of penalty
severity on juvenile recidivism**

Dr Don Weatherburn, Ms Sumitra
Vignaendra and Mr Andrew McGrath