



Consultancies –2008

The Council's funds may be disseminated through the research grants program as well as a consultancy program. For its consultancies, the Council identifies topics of policy importance for research and then develops proposals which are publicly advertised. These consultancies are designed to meet highly specific objectives to which the Council has accorded priority. Such research, for example, could be designed to contribute to, or complement, the work of national initiatives by other organisations, or state/territory initiatives which have clear policy or best practice implications for other governments within Australia. Recent consultancy research projects are as follows:

Ongoing Consultancies

Correctional offender treatment programs: the 2008 national picture – Ms Karen Heseltine, Associate Professor Andrew Day and Professor Rick Sarre

A consortium led by ForenPsych Pty Ltd was awarded this consultancy. The study aims to examine changes to correctional rehabilitation in Australian Correctional Services over the past four years. The proposed research will build on the results of a previous CRC study (Howells, Heseltine, Sarre, Davey & Day 2004) adding new and indeed better quality data to this report. In doing so, the following questions will be addressed: first to describe the extent and current nature of adult offender treatment programs in Correctional Services throughout Australia, identifying those programs that have been shown to work. Second, using a checklist of program characteristics to determine the consistency of programs with best practice as defined by the scientific literature and the evidence base to support program delivery. Third, to determine the nature and extent of changes in correctional programming since 2004. Fourth, to describe likely future developments and possible impediments to program implementation, from the perspective of correctional managers. In all of these matters the researchers will make recommendations as to policy development, providing a more systemic and rigorous evidence base for correctional programming.

Consultancies Completed in the Last Twelve Months

Indigenous Diversion – Dr Don Weatherburn, Ms Joy Wundersitz & Ms Anna Ferrante

A consortium of The New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, the South Australian Office of Crime Statistics and Research and the Crime Research Centre at the University of Western Australia was awarded this project. The research objectives of the study are threefold. To establish the relative rates of diversion for Indigenous and non-Indigenous young offenders in WA, SA and NSW. To determine to what extent the observed differences can be explained by offender and offence characteristics. To establish what differences exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous juvenile offenders in characteristics known to exert an effect on the likelihood of diversion. The research is being led by the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research and has submitted its final report in December 2008. The final report is currently with the Council for consideration.