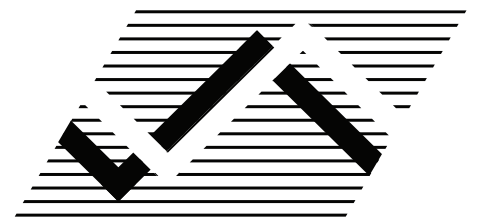# The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research presents

Applied Research in Crime and Justice Conference 2015

Handbook

18 - 19 February, 2015
Dockside Function Centre
Darling Harbour, Sydney, NSW
NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
Website: www.cvent.com/d/d4qxj1

program

DAY 1   Wednesday 18 February 2015

8.00am - 9:00am	**Registration**
9.00am - 9:10am	**Introduction**: Don Weatherburn, Director, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
9:10am - 9:20am	**Welcome to country**
9:20am - 9:30am	**Opening of proceedings: The Honourable Brad Hazzard MP, NSW Attorney-General and Minister for Justice**

9:30am - 10:30am	**Keynote 1: Chair, Don Weatherburn**
	    Professor David Weisburd, George Mason University
	    - Hot Spots of Crime and Crime Prevention

10:30am - 11:00am	**MORNING TEA**

	Session 1A: Chair, Patricia Menendez	Session 1B: Chair, Neil Donnelly
11:00am - 1:00pm	**Ophelia Cowell & Russell Taylor,** Treasury NSW. Piloting the Washington State approach to public policy in NSW	**Peter Miller,** Deakin University. Individual and situational predictors of harm in the night-time economy
	Eileen Baldry, University of New South Wales. Using linked and merged multi-sourced individual administrative data to inform justice policy, programs and practice	**Kypros Kypri,** University of Newcastle. Effects of lowering the alcohol minimum purchasing age on weekend hospitalised assaults in New Zealand
	Carleen Thompson, Griffith University. Examining adult-onset offending: A case for adult cautioning	**Ross Homel,** Griffith University. Taking developmental crime prevention to scale: Building capacity for the CREATE experiment in disadvantaged communities across Australia
	David Tait & Karen Gelb, University of Western Sydney. The effectiveness of suspended sentences in reducing reoffending: What can we learn from the NSW experience?	**Anthony Morgan,** Australian Institute of Criminology. The impact of community-based drug and alcohol treatment on reoffending in Indigenous communities

1:00pm - 2:00pm	**LUNCH**

2.00pm - 3.00pm	**Keynote 2: Chair, Jackie Fitzgerald**
	    Professor Jenny Williams, Melbourne University
	    - Delinquency, Arrest and Early School Leaving

3:00pm - 3:30pm	**AFTERNOON TEA**

	Session 2A: Chair, Stephanie Ramsey	Session 2B: Chair, Judy Trevena
3:30pm 5:30pm	**Ruth McCausland,** University of New South Wales. Aboriginal women's access to diversionary programs in NSW	**Rick Sarre & Judy Putt,** University of South Australia. Policing the Cross Border region
	Susan Dennison, Griffith University. Closing the gap or perpetuating inequality? Indigenous paternal imprisonment and the next generation	**Caitlin Hughes,** NDARC, University of New South Wales. The deterrent effects of drug detection dogs on drug use in NSW, Australia
	Christine Bond & Samantha Jeffries, Griffith University. Alternatives to prison: Exploring the non-custodial sentencing of domestic violence offenders in New South Wales' Lower Courts	**Wayne Hall,** The University of Queensland Centre for Youth Substance Abuse Research. Using wastewater to monitor illicit drug use in the population
	Lily Trimboli, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. Legal service for defendants in Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVOs): An evaluation	**Louisa Degenhardt,** NDARC, University of New South Wales. Examining treatment, crime, imprisonment and mortality among people with a history of treatment for opioid dependence: OST reduces crime and mortality risks

5:30pm - 7:00pm	**COCKTAIL PARTY at Conference venue**

The Applied Research in Crime and Justice Conference 2015

DAY 2   Thursday 19 February 2015

Time		
8.30am - 9:00am	**Registration**	
9:00am - 10:00am	**Keynote 3: Chair, Suzanne Poynton** Professor Doris Leyton MacKenzie, PennState **- Reducing the Criminal Activities of Offenders**	
10:00am - 10:30am	**MORNING TEA**	
10:30am - 12:30pm	**Session 3A: Chair, Imogen Halstead**	**Session 3B: Chair, Paul Nelson**
	Kevin Schnepel, University of Sydney. Good jobs and recidivism	Mark Finnane, Amanda Kaladelfos and Yorick Smaal, Griffith University. Child sexual abuse in historical perspective: what did the law know and how did it act?
	Robin Fitzgerald, University of Queensland. Signalling desistance? The role of prison-based vocational training programs	Lisa Broidy, Griffith University. Life course offending patterns across gender and indigenous status in an Australian birth cohort
	Jennifer Galouzis, Corrective Services NSW. Predicting return to prison using the Criminal Reimprisonment Estimate Scale	Paul Mazerolle, Griffith University. Are our young people out of control... and do we even know? An epidemiological perspective on youth crime in Australia
	Max Maller, Data Linkage, Western Australia. The AART of predicting reoffending: an Australian Actuarial Risk Assessment Tool (AART)	Allan Borowski & Rosemary Sheehan, La Trobe University & Monash University. Australia's Children's Courts: The findings of a "National Assessment"
12:30pm - 1:30pm	**LUNCH**	
1:30pm - 2:30pm	**Keynote 4: Chair, Don Weatherburn** Professor James Ogloff, Swinbourne University of Technology **- Changing the Focus: Moving from a Specific to General Model of Offending**	
2:30pm - 3:00pm	**AFTERNOON TEA**	
3:00pm - 4:30pm	**Session 4A: Chair, Nicole Mahoney**	**Session 4B: Chair, Clare Ringland**
	Neil Donnelly, Patricia Menendez and Nicole Mahoney, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. The effect of liquor licence concentrations in local areas on rates of assault in NSW	Stuart Kinner, The University of Melbourne. Behavioural health services and reincarceration in ex-prisoners with co-occurring mental health and substance use problems
	Michael Livingston, NDARC, University of New South Wales. The longitudinal relationship between alcohol availability and family violence in Victoria	Stuart Ross & Karen Gelb, University of Melbourne & University of Western Sydney. Methodological considerations in measuring the effectiveness of treatment programs on reoffending
	Patricia Menendez, Fernando Tusell & Don Weatherburn, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. The effects of liquor licensing restriction on alcohol related violence in NSW, 2008-2013	Matt Frize, Community Justice Program, NSW Family & Community Services. Assessing Short-Term Risk of Reoffending in People with an Intellectual Disability in NSW
4:30pm - 5:30pm	**ICE CREAM FAREWELL at Conference venue**	

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Keynote speaker abstracts

Reducing the Criminal Activities of Offenders

Doris Layton MacKenzie
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Past behaviour is the best predictor of future behaviour, therefore, it is reasonable to attempt to prevent future crime and increase positive social behaviour of individuals by changing known offenders so they will cease their criminal activity and develop a repertoire of more socially acceptable skills and comportment. Once offenders are convicted they come under the supervision of correctional systems and this provides an ideal period of time to attempt to change them. This review of the research literature will examine what correctional interventions, programs and strategies have been shown to be effective in changing offenders' behaviours so they commit fewer crimes and live more socially acceptable lives. The increased use of stronger research methods and statistical techniques such as randomized experiments and meta-analyses has greatly assisted us in identifying effective interventions. Yet, in comparison to other fields the quality of correctional research is limited. In addition, while the research clearly demonstrates that some programs are effective in reducing criminal activity, implementation of these evidence-based interventions often present challenges. Some new programs currently being developed may show promise for improving outcomes.

Changing the Focus: Moving from a Specific to General Model of Offending

James Ogloff
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Contemporary understanding of offending comes primarily from studies and clinical experiences with those who perpetrate particular types of offences (e.g., sexual offenders, violent offenders, stalkers, arsonists, etc.). Across many correctional services clinicians often develop 'expertise' for working with particular types of offenders. In forensic mental health services, offence specific and offence related matters are often underplayed or even ignored. Thinking more broadly, theories of offending have also been reduced to theories of specialist offending. In this presentation, it will be argued that this approach is erroneous and fraught with difficulty. Evidence will be presented that across virtually all offence types, so-called 'specialist offenders' are quite rare. As such, the continued focus on understanding specialist offending overlooks the vast majority of offenders who carry out the vast majority of all types of offending – including the so-called specialist offences. A problem behaviour focus will be presented that asks the question first, why people offend, and only then, why they offend in the way they do. Implications for assessment and treatment will be discussed.

Hot Spots of Crime and Crime Prevention

David Weisburd
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Over the last two decades hot spots policing has become a key crime prevention approach in policing. The National Academies of Science (USA) concluded in 2004 that focused policing at places "provide the strongest collective evidence of police effectiveness that is now available." In this lecture Professor Weisburd will present the basic research evidence underlying hot spots approaches, as well as the evaluation evidence that has been brought for the strategy. He will also argue that focusing crime prevention at crime hot spots provides strong opportunities for effective social prevention programs.

Delinquency, Arrest and Early School Leaving

Jenny Williams
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Recent research has found that adults with more education are less likely to engage in criminal behaviour and are at reduced risk of incarceration. In order to better understand the pivotal role of education in crime prevention, this research studies the dynamic relationship between anti-social and criminal behaviour of young males, their criminal justice interactions, and their decision to leave school. The innovation of our approach is that we focus on the impact of initiation into delinquency and of first arrest on school leaving. We use a multivariate mixed proportional hazard model to identify the separate causal effects of delinquency and arrest on school leaving, accounting for the potential for reverse causality and common unobserved confounders. Our results show that, after accounting for reverse causality and omitted common confounders, both arrest and delinquency lead to early school leaving. In terms of reverse causality, we find that early school leaving does increase the likelihood of first arrest, but not initiation into delinquency. Further investigations reveal that while the magnitude of the effect of arrest on school leaving is twice the size of the effect of delinquency, twice as many males enrolled in school at age 16 have been delinquent and not arrested compared to enrolled and arrested in our sample. Therefore, the overall reduction in education due to delinquency is of a similar magnitude to the reduction due to arrest. This highlights the importance of crime prevention efforts that reach beyond youth who come in contact with the criminal justice system.

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Session abstracts

Using linked and merged multi-sourced individual administrative data to inform justice policy, programs and practice

Eileen Baldry, Leanne Dowse, Julian Trollor and Han Xu
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The 'people with mental health disorders and cognitive disability in the criminal justice system (cjs)' project was funded in 2007 by an ARC Linkage grant. We outline the processes undertaken to draw, link and merge data on 2,731 people in NSW Corrections Justice Health and disability datasets. Data was gathered on lifelong involvement in justice, human and health agencies. A cleaned, linked, merged and deidentified relational dataset was then available for analysis. Quantitative and case analyses of lifecourse pathways of groups and individuals as well as the interactions of various agencies' interventions with each other have been undertaken. Other ARC, NHMRC, agency funded projects and postgraduate research projects are using the dataset to investigate cross agency interactions within the cohort in regard to homelessness, mental health, out of home care and legal aid. Cost benefit, geographical concentration, victimization, the experiences of those with multiple and complex needs, women and Indigenous Australians also have been examined. Findings are being used by government agencies and NGOs in NSW and interstate. The dataset will be updated regularly and enhanced to create a longitudinal resource allowing investigation of how agencies can better work to keep very vulnerable people out of the criminal justice system.

Alternatives to Prison: Exploring the Non-Custodial Sentencing of Domestic Violence Offenders in New South Wales' Lower Courts

Christine Bond and Samantha Jeffries
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Griffith University
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The issue of sentencing domestic (or familial) violence offenders remains under-explored both nationally and internationally. Most research focuses on the sentencing of particular offences (such as assault) or on imprisonment. In this study, we explore the judicial use of non-custodial sentencing in cases of domestic versus non-domestic violence, using a population of cases sentenced in the New South Wales lower courts between January 2009 and June 2012. Our analyses are placed within the context of larger domestic violence reforms, as well as current theoretical understandings of sentencing.

Australia's Children's Courts: The Findings of a "National Assessment"

Allan Borowski[1] and Rosemary Sheehan[2]
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Australia's Children's Courts hear both child protection and youth offending matters. Thus, they are a key social institution whose decisions have major social consequences for children and families. This presentation reports on an ARC-funded study of Children's Courts in all eight of Australia's States and Territories. This "national assessment" gathered the views of Children's Court magistrates and other key stakeholders (lawyers, police prosecutors, probation officers, child protection workers, service providers, etc.) on the contemporary status of and challenges faced by these courts and their degree of support for a range of possible reforms. The focus of this presentation is on both the study's findings and further developments in Australia's Children's Courts since data collection for this study was completed.

Life Course Offending Patterns Across Gender and Indigenous Status in an Australian Birth Cohort

Lisa Broidy, Anna L. Stewart, Carleen M. Thompson, April Chrzanowski, Troy Allard and Susan M. Dennison
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This study uses an Australian birth cohort to detail life course offending patterns into early adulthood. Our aim is to outline the range of age graded offending trajectories in an Australian population sample and to examine how subgroups defined by both gender and Indigenous status are distributed across these

trajectories. Consistent with the developmental life course literature, females as a group are significantly less likely to exhibit chronic offending than males. More unique to Australia, Indigenous offenders populate chronic offending trajectories at higher rates than their non-Indigenous counterparts. Further disaggregating, we find variation within gender as a function of Indigenous status. Specifically, chronic offending is significantly more characteristic of Indigenous compared to non-Indigenous females and these Indigenous females are more likely to exhibit chronic offending than non-Indigenous males. This highlights the importance of Indigenous status for our understanding of life course offending patterns among Australians. More broadly, it suggests that the gendered processes that shape offending patterns are also influenced by the structural disadvantages and individual risk factors that impact vulnerable populations. This has important implications for life course theories of offending and for gender and race sensitive policy and intervention.

Piloting the Washington State approach to public policy in NSW

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Aim: The aim of the research was to test the replicability in the NSW context of the Cost Benefit Analysis tool developed by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP). The model seeks to monetise benefits, individual and social, resulting from interventions designed to reduce offending and reoffending.

Method: The tool is a cost-benefit model which utilises local cost and outcome data and published effect sizes to model the relative costs and benefits of policy options. The project team gathered data from NSW justice agencies to generate the inputs required to populate the model.

Results: Aggregate justice system costs have been assembled. Estimates have been generated for a range of costs and avoided costs associated with crime and crime reduction, including financial returns to education, victim costs and spill over effects, to support sectoral cost-benefit analysis in crime and justice. This work confirms that much of the benefit of reduced offending arises from averted costs of detection, prosecution and incarceration, and averted cost of victimisation.

Conclusion: The project has demonstrated the feasibility of the WSIPP model for implementation in NSW and concludes that the tool could provide a powerful evidence base for policy development.

Examining treatment, crime, imprisonment and mortality among people with a history of treatment for opioid dependence: OST reduces crime and mortality risks

Louisa Degenhardt[1], Natasa Gisev[1], Sarah Larney[1,3], Jo Kimber[1], Marian Shanahan[1], Don Weatherburn[6], Timothy Dobbins[2], Michael Farrell[1], Amy Gibson[4], Tony Butler[5], Richard Mattick[1] and Lucy Burns[1]

[1]NDARC, University of New South Wales, [2]University of Sydney, [3]Brown University, [4]University of Western Sydney, [5]The Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales, [6]NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
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Background: This study evaluated treatment engagement, patterns of offending, incarceration, and mortality among opioid-dependent people who received OST in NSW.

Methods: OST records were linked with data on court appearances (1993-2011), incarceration (2000-2012), and mortality.

Results: Overall, 638,545 charges were laid against cohort members and 37% of the cohort were incarcerated, totalling AUD$3 billion. The crude crime rate (CCR) per 100 person-years (PY) for all offences in the four years prior to OST entry was 130.78 (95% CI 129.65-131.91). A 32% reduction was observed while in OST [CCR per 100PY 88.29, 95% CI 86.96-89.63] and a 20% reduction out of OST [CCR per 100PY 101.67, 95% CI 100.35-102.99]. Cohort members were in prison for 30,998 PY, during which there were 51 deaths. Compared to prison time out of OST, the hazard of all-cause death was 74% lower while in OST (adjusted hazard ratio (AHR): 0.26; 95% CI: 0.13 to 0.50). OST exposure in the four weeks post-release reduced the hazard of death by 75% (AHR 0.25; 95%CI: 0.15, 0.52).

Conclusions: Our study demonstrates that OST reduces crime, and mortality in prison and in the immediate period post-release. Therefore, OST in prison should be scaled up, and post-release OST continuation maximised.

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Closing the gap or perpetuating inequality? Indigenous paternal imprisonment and the next generation

Susan Dennison
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International research has revealed that parental imprisonment increases the risk of offspring offending and incarceration, increases racial disparities and perpetuates intergenerational inequality. In Australia, one in five Indigenous children will experience paternal imprisonment by age 18. The aim of this research was to examine whether, and in what ways, Indigenous paternal imprisonment interrupts the fathering role and what this means for the wellbeing of children and communities. Utilising semi-structured interviews with 41 Indigenous fathers located in two prisons in North Queensland, we examined Indigenous men's identities as fathers and their relationships with their children during imprisonment. We found that barriers to contact with children were due largely to social and economic disadvantage, distance, opportunities to communicate in culturally meaningful ways and opportunities to learn about being a father prior to, and during, imprisonment. More than half of the men reported a decline in the wellbeing of their children since their imprisonment. In most cases imprisonment limited the capacity for men to think about, and engage in, parenting and provided little preparation for parenting upon release. This paper concludes with a set of policy and program recommendations to reduce the impact of imprisonment on parents, children and their communities.

The effect of liquor licence concentrations in local areas on rates of assault in NSW

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Aim: To investigate the relationship between liquor licence concentrations and assault rates in Local Government Areas (LGAs) in New South Wales.

Method: Police, liquor licensing and socio-demographic data from 2011 were analysed. Spatial regression analyses were conducted to measure associations between liquor licence concentrations and domestic violence (DV) and non-domestic violence (non-DV) assault rates.

Results: The concentration of hotel licences in an LGA, particularly at higher density levels, was strongly predictive of both DV and non-DV assault rates. A similar, but slightly weaker, association was found for the concentration of packaged licences and DV and non-DV assault rates. On-premises concentrations also predicted DV and non-DV assault rates at the LGA level but, unlike hotel concentration effects, in this case there was no evidence of stronger effects at higher density levels. A significant relationship between DV assault rates and the concentration of clubs was also found, but the association between the concentration of clubs and the non-DV assault rate was not as strong.

Conclusion: Regulatory authorities should be concerned about increases in liquor outlet density. In particular, increases in the density of hotels above 2 per 1,000 residents are of greater concern than increases in the density of premises with other types of liquor licence.

Child sexual abuse in historical perspective: what did the law know and how did it act?

Mark Finnane, Amanda Kaladelfos and Yorick Smaal
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The current Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Australia, like similar inquiries across the western world since the 1980s, has focussed on uncovering the causes and extent of historical sexual abuse of children in institutions. Underpinning contemporary concerns about child sexual abuse is the presumption that what happened in the past was condoned in ways that it would not be today. We question this assumption by considering the scope and intensity of historical prosecution and punishment of child sexual abuse across the century before 1950.

The paper will consider the range of common law and statutory prohibitions on sexual assault before outlining evidence of the scale of its prosecution in a number of Australian jurisdictions. We argue that criminal prosecution was more widespread than has been commonly understood, that it made up the greater part of prosecutions of sexual assault, that conviction rates were higher for offences against children than against adults, and that penalties were harsher. At the same time the historical prosecution of institutional or 'guardian' abuse demonstrates long standing problems in reporting, investigation and evidence that continue to trouble contemporary prosecutors.

Signalling desistance? The role of prison-based vocational training programs

Robin Fitzgerald, Adrian Cherney and Maria Plotnikova
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Aim: Most offenders desist from crime, but they do so at varying, and not easily predictable speeds. While research often attempts to understand why that might be the case, in this analysis we consider a prior question – how might desistance be reliably recognized by those other than the offender him or herself? In particular, we test whether voluntary participation in prison-based adult education and vocational education training (AEVET) programs can serve as a 'signal' of an offender's changing, or perhaps already changed identity and willingness to desist from crime.

Method: Based on data from a sample of offenders released from prisons in Queensland, Australia over a two-year period, we use propensity score matching followed by survival analysis and cox regression to assess whether participating in and/or completing AEVET programs reduces offenders' chances of re-imprisonment over a three-year period when compared to non-enrolment in these programs.

Results: Offenders who voluntarily enrol in and either complete or partially complete AEVET programs have reduced chances of re-imprisonment, over and above gains from other types of programs.

Conclusion: We argue that the results have implications for an improved understanding of the role of voluntary program participation as a signal for desistance.

Predicting return to prison using the Criminal Reimprisonment Estimate Scale

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In Australia research into the prediction of re-offending has focussed on identifying characteristics of offenders that predict reconviction in general rather than return to custody, even though those who re-offend and return to custody account for a far higher proportion of correctional expenditure than those who are given a non-custodial penalty. The aim of the current study was to describe the development of a statistical model which allows a user to estimate the probability of an individual of returning to custody within two years of release, the Criminal Reimprisonment Estimate Scale (CRES). The CRES model is intended to assist decision making on which offenders should be given priority for rehabilitation interventions or referred for in-depth risk assessment. The following groups of offenders were found to be at greater risk of returning to custody: those who had higher numbers of full-time custodial sentences in a shorter period of time; younger offenders at the time of the first full-time adult imprisonment; Indigenous offenders; offenders who had spent shorter periods of time at large; offenders who had a conviction for robbery-related or theft-related offences and offenders who had spent shorter length of time in custody. Results also show that better identification of offenders at higher risk of returning to custody can be achieved by using the CRES model as a screening tool to determine who is referred to a more comprehensive form of risk assessment.

Using wastewater to monitor illicit drug use in the population

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Wastewater analysis (WWA) of drug residues promises to overcome some of the limitations of traditional survey methods of monitoring illicit drug use in the population. I describe current applications of WWA using recent research undertaken in Brisbane, and discuss technical, ethical and policy issues that may be raised by future uses of this method (e.g. to detect new and merging illicit drug use and monitor population alcohol use). The analysis suggests that when used to monitor illicit drug use in large populations, WWA does not raise major ethical concerns because individuals are not identified and the prospects of harming residents of these catchment areas is remote. When WWA is used in smaller catchment areas (entertainment venues, prisons, schools or workplaces) the results could possibly indirectly adversely affect the occupants. Researchers will need to take care in reporting results of such studies to reduce media misreporting. Fears about possible use of WWA for mass individual surveillance by drug law enforcement officials are unlikely to be realised but they will need to be addressed to ensure that they do not undermine public support for this type of research. WWA is not only potentially useful in monitoring illicit drug use; it could also be used to monitor population use of alcohol, tobacco and pharmaceutical use in the population.

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Taking developmental crime prevention to scale: Building capacity for the CREATE experiment in disadvantaged communities across Australia

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What is needed for complex adaptive problems like youth crime is collective impact initiatives where multiple sectors work collaboratively to address agreed goals that are measurable using evidence-informed initiatives. In this presentation we report early findings of a large ARC Linkage Project with five state and federal government departments and five NGOs as partners. The project is designed to strengthen the developmental system in seven disadvantaged communities which are sites in the Federal Government's Communities for Children Program in NSW and Queensland. We use the CREATE model of preventive action: Collaboration; Relationships; Early prevention; Accountability; Training; and Evidence-informed practices. The project draws on recent research in prevention science to build and test a Prevention Translation and Support System that combines a rich array of electronic resources with the work of collaboration managers who are developing processes and organisational capacity to strengthen the way community coalitions identify and agree on goals for child wellbeing and mobilise their efforts to address them. This paper will report the profiles of five 'capacity building' communities and five 'business as usual' communities in terms of measures of coalition functioning, and show how capacity for collective efficacy is being built using the CREATE principles.

The deterrent effects of drug detection dogs on drug use in NSW, Australia

Caitlin Hughes[1], Don Weatherburn[2] and Robert MacCoun[3]
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Aim: Drug detection dogs are a high visibility policing strategy, employed in an effort to prevent or deter illicit drug offending. Limited evidence of deterrence exists. In this study we seek to assess the deterrent effects of drug detection dogs on illicit drug use at outdoor music festivals in NSW.

Method: A purpose built online survey involving three policing scenarios (police with dogs; police without dogs; no police presence) was administered to 513 people who had attended outdoor festivals in NSW. Under each scenario respondents were given the option to use five illicit drugs and asked whether they would engage in drug use and if so the type, quantity and location of use.

Results: Compared to the scenario of no police presence, police plus dogs reduced the number of patrons who were willing to use illicit drugs (by 13%) and the total quantity of drugs consumed (by 28%). However, 62% of patrons continued to use drugs. Moreover, drug detection dogs increased drug use outside festival venues and shifted use patterns towards stimulants.

Conclusion: This research suggests police use of drug detection dogs may deter some illicit drug use, but that their deployment is likely to elicit other potentially harmful effects.

Effects of lowering the alcohol minimum purchasing age on weekend hospitalised assaults in New Zealand

Kypros Kypri[1], Gabrielle Davie[2], Patrick McElduff[1], Jennie Connor[3] and John Langley[2]
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Objectives: In December 1999 New Zealand lowered the alcohol minimum purchasing age from 20 to 18 years. Previous research shows deleterious effects on traffic crash injury but there have been no studies of the effects on assault rates. We hypothesised that the law change increased assaults among 18-19 year-olds (the target group) and 15-17 year-olds via illegal sales, or supply by older associates ("trickle-down").

Methods: Using Poisson regression we examined hospitalised Friday-Sunday assaults from 1995-2011 separately by gender among 15-17 and 18-19 year-olds, with 20-21 year-olds as a control for economic and environmental factors.

Results: Compared with 20-21 year-old males, assaults increased significantly among 18-19 year-old males in 2003-7 (Incidence Rate Ratio: 1.21; 95% Confidence Interval: 1.05 to 1.39) and 2008-11 (IRR: 1.20; 95% CI: 1.05 to 1.37) relative to the pre-change period 1995-9.

For 15-17 year-old males assaults increased in 1999-2003 (IRR: 1.28; 95% CI: 1.10 to 1.49) and 2004-7 (IRR: 1.25; 95% CI: 1.08 to 1.45). There were no statistically significant effects for females.

Conclusion: Lowering the minimum purchasing age increased weekend assaults resulting in hospitalisation of 15-19 year-old males.

The longitudinal relationship between alcohol availability and family violence in Victoria

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There is a substantial body of evidence linking the availability of alcohol to rates of alcohol-related harm. At the local level, studies have repeatedly shown that the density of alcohol outlets (particularly pubs and bars) is linked to general assault rates, but there has been limited work exploring other outcomes. In this study, we examine the local level relationship between alcohol outlet density and family violence over time, using ten years of data from the city of Melbourne. The data are analysed using spatial fixed-effects models, assessing whether changes in alcohol outlet density are linked to changes in family violence rates at the suburb level. Across the city of Melbourne there was significant relationship between packaged liquor outlet density and domestic violence, although these relationships varied across different neighbourhood types. The findings provide some evidence that policies aimed at reducing the availability of packaged liquor in Victoria may contribute to reductions in rates of domestic violence.

The AART of Predicting Reoffending: an Australian Actuarial Risk Assessment Tool (AART)

Max Maller
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This paper describes an operational risk assessment tool that accurately predicts the probability of an individual re-offending. The initial application of the tool was to assess the re-offending risk for individuals about to undertake a period of supervised release (e.g. Parole, community-based orders etc.). The prediction tool depends upon an accurate database of linked police and prison records and the first AART release was based on over 600,000 arrest events and more than 155,000 offenders identified over a 13 year period in WA. Designed as an actuarial tool, the database absorbs new data as it becomes available, now containing 20 years of data.

The method uses the population of arrest events across the review period as a proxy for 'offending' and seeks out a targeted sub-group that matches as closely as possible (on a range of discriminating variables) the subject of interest (e.g. an individual facing parole or a supervised community order). Survival analysis is applied to determine the group 'average' propensity to re-offend and other statistical techniques (regression and confidence measures) are used to fine-tune the probability of re-offending for the subject.

The AART is designed to calculate an individual's risk of re-offending over any time horizon (such as within a year, or 2 years and so on). It can also be used for re-assessment of the subject's risk during the supervised release period (i.e. after some clean 'street-time') and for first-time offenders. The AART has been extensively tested over many years of operational use in the WA Department of Corrective Services and has proven its reliability and accuracy. However, its current validity has been undermined by the failure to keep current the linked recidivism data bases that underpin the accurate calculation of the risks of reoffending. Although the AART was built nearly 15 years ago, its methodology/data mix is unique and still applicable. It is the only prediction tool based on population-level Australian offender data and its proven reliability demonstrates the importance of developing indigenous tools rather than importing instruments based on non-Australian data.

Are our young people out of control…and do we even know? An epidemiological perspective on youth crime in Australia

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Aim: Scholarly efforts to understand juvenile offending sit against a broader backdrop of public perceptions and moral concern about the nature and magnitude of the problem. In particular, concerns are regularly expressed in popular media and political discourse that offending

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is escalating among young people. Despite providing impetus for legislative and policy change, it is unclear whether perceptions of an upwards trend in Australian juvenile offending are supported by objective data. The current study begins to address this question

Method: Using a range of quantitative data sources, the study adopts an epidemiological approach to youth offending in Australia. Trends over time are considered for a range of different types of offending.

Results: Claims of escalating youth crime are not fully supported, however the available data contain serious limitations.

Conclusions: There are significant shortcomings in current knowledge around the nature and magnitude of youth offending in Australia, due largely to data issues and reporting inconsistencies over time. This has notable implications for the development of evidence-based policies and programs.

Aboriginal women's access to diversionary programs in NSW

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Aboriginal women make up approximately 30% of the NSW women's prison population. There has been formal recognition of the problems associated with the increasing over-representation of Aboriginal women in prison for more than a decade and policy commitments to diversion. However it is apparent that diversionary programs as they currently operate are not having positive outcomes for Aboriginal women.

This paper details research conducted for the Women's Advisory Council of Corrective Services NSW that sought to investigate Aboriginal women's access to diversionary programs. New quantitative and qualitative data was gathered to inform the analysis. The research found barriers faced by Aboriginal women at all potential stages of diversion from the criminal justice system in NSW. Aboriginal women were less likely than non-Aboriginal women to be referred to or to complete pre-sentencing programs; were under-represented in court intervention programs; were more likely to be imprisoned than non-Aboriginal women across a range of offences; and less likely to access and complete programs run in custody. The paper concludes with a number of recommendations regarding policy and program measures that could improve access to diversionary options for Aboriginal women in NSW.

The effects of liquor licensing restrictions on alcohol related violence in NSW, 2008-2013

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Aims: Several countries have restricted liquor trading hours to reduce assault but evidence on the effectiveness of this measure is still fairly limited. In 2008, the New South Wales (NSW) Government introduced a series of interrelated reforms to liquor licensing laws that were intended to reduce the incidence of alcohol-related violence. The aim of this study is to see whether these reforms achieved their intended effects.

Design: We examine the effects of the legislative reforms using time series structural models. These models are used to estimate the underlying long term dynamics of police recorded domestic and non-domestic assaults occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH) and assaults occasioning grievous bodily harm (GBH) in NSW between January 1996 and December 2013.

Results: The reforms enacted in 2008 were associated with a 14.59 per cent reduction in ABH between July 2008 and July 2011 and a 31.97 per cent reduction in GBH incidents between in the same period. Furthermore, between July 2008 and July 2013 there was a decrease on ABH of 31.27 per cent. Similarly, a decrease of 39.70 per cent on GBH assault occurred between July 2008 and July 2012.

Conclusion: The imposition of restrictions on the trading hours of licensed premises that are repeatedly the site of alcohol-related violence may be an effective instrument for reducing alcohol related violence given that there are no other confounding factors.

Individual and situational predictors of harm in the night-time economy

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Although the harms associated with attending the night-time economy are well documented, there is little reliable evidence around the factors that influence the experience of harm and particularly how important each of those factors are. This talk will present the combined findings from four studies and over 13,000

patron interviews across Australia, presenting regression models to identify the key individual and situational factors such as time of day, type of venue and levels of intoxication, and how they impact on the experience of harms such as assault and injury.

The impact of community-based drug and alcohol treatment on reoffending in Indigenous communities

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Aim: The aim of this study was to determine the effectiveness of four community-based residential drug and alcohol treatment programs in improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous clients and reducing reoffending.

Method: The study involved the analysis of client case files, a program entry and exit assessment and criminal justice data. Police and court conviction data was linked with client data to measure the impact of treatment on reoffending, which was analysed using survival analysis, Cox regression and negative binomial regression.

Results: The findings from the evaluation were promising, with evidence of improvements in client health and wellbeing across a number of domains. Further, there was some evidence of an increase in the time taken to reoffend and a reduction in the frequency of offending among clients who completed treatment compared with those clients who were terminated or absconded from the program, controlling for other variables. However, there were also a number of evaluation challenges and findings varied between the different programs.

Conclusion: This study makes an important contribution to an otherwise limited evidence base, demonstrating that residential treatment programs implemented in regional communities can have a positive impact on a range a health and criminal justice outcomes.

Methodological considerations in measuring the effectiveness of treatment programs on reoffending

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The last two decades has seen the development of a wide range of new court models designed to address specific forms of offending (drug courts, family violence courts) or to respond to issues of individual or social disadvantage (bail support programs, mental health courts, community or neighbourhood courts). These models are frequently trialled on a restricted area or eligibility basis with the expectation that any general implementation will be based on evaluation data that demonstrates their effectiveness. However standard evaluation approaches pose significant methodological and theoretical challenges that include the difficulty in establishing cause-and-effect relationships between multi-faceted court interventions and large-scale social outcomes, controlling for the variations in offender characteristics (especially risk) that arise as a by-product of program eligibility criteria, and detecting differences in outcomes when sample sizes are relatively small. This paper considers three criminal justice outcomes relevant to specialist and small-scale court programs – crime rates, community order completion rates, and recidivism rates - and examines the methodological challenges involved in using them in evaluation studies. While solutions exist to these methodological problems, it is also important that we consider a wide range of outcomes that include victim satisfaction, community engagement and health, housing and social outcomes.

Policing the Cross Border region

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Spanning the three jurisdictions of Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, the cross border region of Australia is sparsely populated, with an estimated 7,000 people living in more than 26 communities. The predominantly Aboriginal population is highly mobile for family, cultural and other reasons. A Cross-border Justice Scheme was implemented four

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years ago to treat the entire region as one jurisdiction for certain justice-related matters. The Scheme was conceived by policy-makers seeking solutions for a range of social and justice problems in the region. It was designed to remove the impediments created by jurisdictional borders. It took over five years for planners to develop and implement the legislative framework and inter-governmental and organisational agreements required for the Scheme. The expected outcomes included the generation of timely, efficient and meaningful justice responses that would contribute to greater community safety. Did that occur? What were the consequences? Were there any unintended consequences? This presentation will outline the results of a 12 month evaluation conducted by four researchers, including the two presenters.

Good Jobs and Recidivism

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I estimate the impact of employment opportunities on recidivism among 1.7 million offenders released from a California state prison between 1993 and 2009. The institutional structure of the California criminal justice system as well as location-, skill-, and industry-specific job accession data provide a unique framework to identify a causal effect of labour demand on criminal behaviour. I find that increases in construction and manufacturing employment opportunities at the time of release are associated with significantly lower recidivism rates. Other types of employment opportunities, including those typically accessible to individuals with criminal records but characterized by much lower wages, do not influence recidivism rates. My results illustrate the importance of considering job quality when estimating the impact of employment opportunities on crime and when designing programs to help former inmates successfully re-enter non-institutionalized society.

The effectiveness of suspended sentences in reducing reoffending: What can we learn from the NSW experience?

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Criminal justice policies have been changing rapidly in a number of Australian jurisdictions in recent years, becoming increasingly punitive. For example, suspended sentences have recently been phased out in Victoria and are currently under review in Tasmania. Despite a large body of research on what works to reduce reoffending, such changes are often driven by political rhetoric and expediency, rather than by the evidence. But in this era of tough-on-crime policies and ever increasing (and ever more costly) prison populations, it is critical to have a clear understanding of what works in preventing crime. This paper presents an analysis of data from NSW to examine the effectiveness of suspended sentences compared with community sentences and incarceration, and asks whether the removal of suspended sentences from the sentencing toolbox will actually help protect the community from reoffending.

Behavioural health services and reincarceration in ex-prisoners with co-occurring mental health and substance use problems

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Aim: To examine the relationship between co-occurring mental health and alcohol and other drug (AOD) use disorders, behavioural health service utilisation, and reincarceration in a cohort of 1,200 adult ex-prisoners in Queensland.

Methods: Baseline surveys within 6 weeks of expected release from prison; prospective linkage to mental health service, AOD treatment, and correctional records. Mental disorder was operationalised as psychotropic medication prescription at baseline; risky substance use before prison was assessed using validated screening tools. We examined return to custody using recurrent-

event proportional hazards models adjusted for age, sex, Indigenous status and incarceration history.

Results: Participants with co-occurring mental health and AOD problems (n=312) had an increased hazard of reincarceration (HR=1.90, 95%CI 1.12-2.88) compared to those with neither. We observed no difference in reincarceration rates for those with mental disorder (HR=1.09, 95%CI 0.34-3.46) or AOD problems only (HR=1.43, 95%CI 0.91-2.25). Among those with co-occurring problems, we observed no effect of regular contact with behavioural services on risk of reincarceration (mental health services: HR=1.26, 95%CI 0.79-2.03; AOD services: HR=1.16, 95%CI 0.76,1.77).

Conclusions: Ex-prisoners with comorbid disorders are at increased risk of recidivism. Community-based treatment for these disorders does not reduce the risk of recidivism. Advancing Risk Need-Responsivity principles of integrated programming and quality programming may offer greater likelihood of service utilization effects.

Examining Adult-Onset Offending: A case for adult cautioning

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A considerable number of offenders have their first contact with the criminal justice system at 18 years of age or older. Despite this, the nature of adult-onset offending is poorly understood. Moreover, it is unclear whether traditional criminal justice responses for adult offenders are appropriate for adult-onset offenders. In this paper, we examine the nature of adult-onset offending in the 1983/84 Queensland Longitudinal Data Cohort (n=40,523 offenders to age 25) and explore whether adult cautioning may be a suitable and cost-effective alternative to current court processing. Findings indicate that half of all offenders in this cohort onset in adulthood. Almost 95% of adult-onset offenders were low rate, less serious offenders whose offences seemed to reflect the social behaviour, culture and developmental 'struggles' associated with emerging adulthood. For these offenders, diversionary practices like formal police cautioning may be a more appropriate, efficient and cost-effective response than current practices of court processing. Formally cautioning the first-time, low rate, less serious adult-onset offenders in this cohort would have produced a

cost-saving of $32.5 million for the police and court system. Adult cautioning schemes may enable scarce resources to be redirected to provide evidence-based interventions for higher risk offenders who pose an ongoing risk.

Legal service for defendants in Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVOs): An evaluation

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Background and aims: Domestic violence is a significant problem. In NSW, an effective response is the Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO), but breaches occur. This study had two aims: 1) to determine whether providing legal advice by a duty solicitor to defendants in ADVO proceedings reduces the likelihood of breaches; and 2) to determine the level of satisfaction among stakeholders and defendants with the pilot legal advice service provided to defendants by Legal Aid NSW.

Design: The effect of the ADVO on proscribed behaviours was compared before and after the introduction of the legal advice service to see whether the service resulted in a larger reduction in proscribed behaviours. This involved structured interviews with a total of 147 protected persons. To ascertain their perceptions of the service, interviews were conducted with 29 defendants who received legal advice and 20 stakeholders involved in delivering the service.

Results: The size of the reduction in proscribed behaviours did not differ significantly before and after the introduction of the legal aid service. Most of the defendants interviewed said they understood the ADVO conditions and the consequences of breaching them. Almost all of the stakeholders interviewed believed there was a need for the service, and that the service was effective, valuable and had a beneficial effect on court processes.

Conclusions: Providing legal advice and representation to ADVO defendants does not result in fewer breaches, but both defendants and stakeholders strongly supported it.

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Assessing Short-Term Risk of Reoffending in People with an Intellectual Disability in NSW

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There has been increasing focus by the government, agencies and legal institutions on the use of risk assessments to help inform decisions around support of people with an intellectual disability. Whilst there is strong argument for the use of mechanical approaches for the general offender population, there is limited evidence to suggest which tools, let alone if any tools are appropriate in assessing risk of recidivism for offenders with an intellectual disability in NSW. In addition has been concern regarding which tools might help answer questions around the imminent nature of risk and most importantly how that risk can be managed. This presentation addresses this gap by examining the reliability, ecological validity and predictive validity of the Assessment of Risk and Manageability of Individuals with Developmental and Intellectual Limitations who Offend – Generally (ARMIDILO-G) as well as a range of other commonly used risk assessment tools, including the Level of Service Inventory - Revised and BOCSAR's Group Risk Assessment Model. These tools were administered to 139 people with an Intellectual Disability who have a history of offending and were being supported by NSW's community based forensic disability service. Predictive validity was measured prospectively at three and six months based on official criminal charges. The presentation provides direction on which tools are valid under what circumstances. Implications for policy, the general area of risk assessment research and supporting people with an intellectual disability who offend will also be discussed.