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AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE OF
CRIMINOLOGY

Crime and criminal justice touch us all in one way or another whether it's in the print or electronic news or another corporate criminal or the thief who steals your car or the thug who assaults you.

To understand why crime continues and how it continues is essential if we are to combat the incidence of crime in our society. Crime prevention is at the heart of the work of the Australian Institute of Criminology.

The Australian Institute of Criminology is the focus for the study of crime and criminal justice in this country.

At the Criminology Building in Canberra, the Institute carries out work, much of which breaks new ground in the investigation and analysis of crime and the criminal justice system. Research staff continuously monitor the course of crime and justice, producing findings which can assist police, the judiciary, corrections, business, and



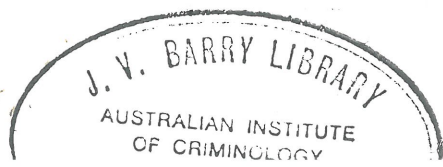
the wider community.

Issues which the Institute has been involved with include violence prevention in Australia, gun control laws, drugs, the effects of stress on police, corporate crime, terrorism, media and crime. The work of the Institute encompasses all facets of the criminal justice system.

Increasingly, the Australian Institute of Criminology is

advising federal, state and territory governments on the criminal justice system and crime prevention. The Institute—because of its national nature, because of its brief and because of the internationally recognised quality of its staff—is uniquely positioned to provide advice which is relevant, considered and cost-effective. The Institute draws on information supplied to it by a wide variety of sources—its advice is seen as objective and independent. The Institute offers Australia research and other information which its politicians, its police forces, and its planners can use on a daily basis.

Like all vital organisations, the Australian Institute of Criminology is made up of enthusiastic, talented people. They work in program areas: Research, Conferences, the J.V. Barry Library, Publications, the Directorate. The Institute works closely with the United Nations, giving that international body an Australian perspective.



Research

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Research is the engine-room of the Institute. Criminologists confront relevant and topical issues in crime and criminal justice.

Research work by Institute experts has covered areas vital to the Australian criminal justice system.

The Federal Government has set up a working committee to look at a National Law Enforcement Strategy—the Australian Institute of Criminology's Director accepted an invitation to sit on this committee.

The Institute also provided a secretariat for the National Committee on Violence, whose report has led to many innovative violence prevention projects; the Institute's Director was chair of that prestigious committee.

Another request from the Government led to Institute researchers preparing a comparison of drug control policies in Australia, Britain, The Netherlands and the United States.



In 1992, research staff began an assessment of occupational health and safety policy for the New South Wales Police Service.

Working with the United Nations, the Institute has investigated environmental regulations—the way governments control their environments.

The Institute worked on research which helped in the formulation of a study for the New South Wales Government on the setting-up of a casino.

Institute researchers have been at the forefront of the development, collection and management of comprehensive statistical data on all Australian correctional systems.

The private sector also recognises the central value of the Institute research work—the Australian Bankers' Association commissioned research on the prevention of robberies. The Institute's work on white-collar crime is acknowledged internationally as being at the forefront of this area of research.

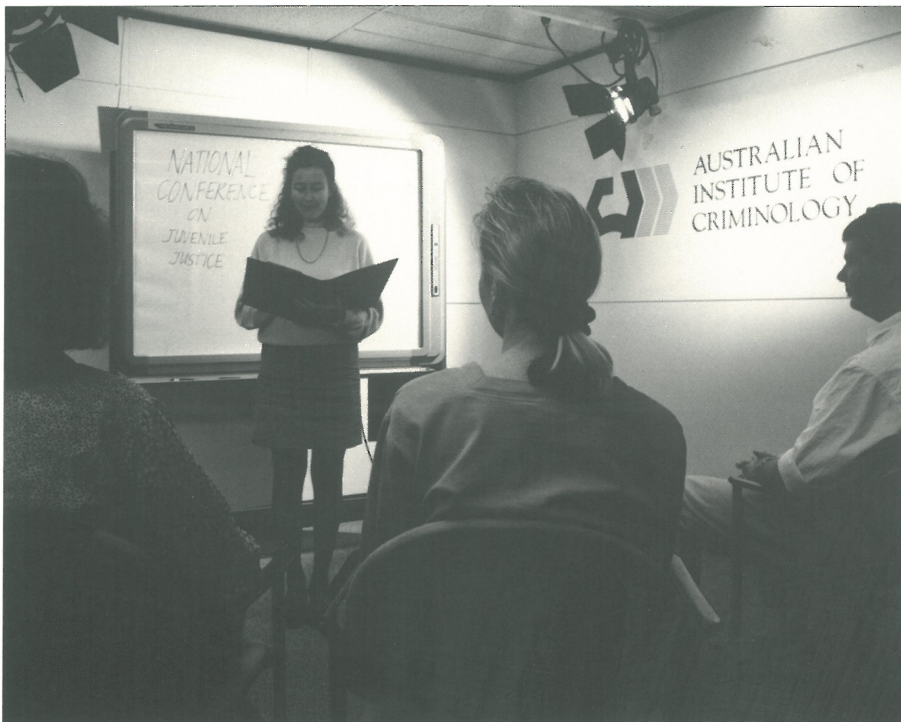
Conferences

With a strong concern for relevant issues in the criminal justice area, the Institute's Conferences Program organises a regular series of conferences and seminars, both in Canberra and throughout the country. Leaders in different fields discuss topics like homicide, local government and crime, private-sector involvement in the criminal justice system, women and the law, child witness testimony. This is where the criminal justice issues of the day are aired and debated publicly, where proponents and opponents point the way for the policy of the future.

Seminars generally emphasise single issues—experts are invited to put their theories and experience to an audience of interested parties.

The Institute's Conferences Program has been central in organising international conferences in South-east Asia, such as the 'East Meets West' conference held in Indonesia in 1990, while the Institute

Directorate is the coordinator of the annual Asian and Pacific Correctional Administrators Conference.



J.V. Barry Library

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he J.V. Barry Library (named after Sir John Barry, a distinguished judge of the Victorian Supreme Court) is one of the world's leading criminological libraries. It has gathered together one of the finest collections of criminal justice literature now available, in constant use by the criminal justice community.

The Library supports the Research Program and other work of the Institute, and also plays a vital role in the dissemination of criminal justice information and resource sharing. From the mid-1980s, new information and communication technologies have accelerated this process.

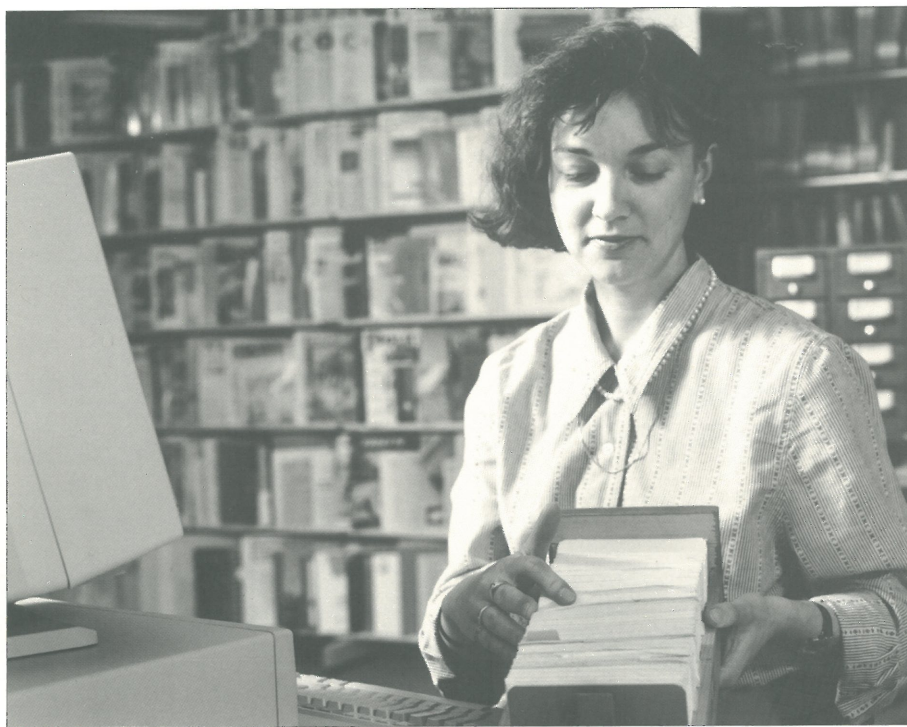
The Library adds the records of its specialised collection of books, reports, conference proceedings and periodicals to the National Library's Australian Bibliographic Network (ABN). Almost half of the J.V. Barry Library's holdings on ABN are unique or of limited

availability within Australia. Nine hundred Australian organisations are currently part of the ABN network.

Yet a much wider group uses the J.V. Barry Library daily—media bodies, researchers, scholars and others contact the Library as a primary and invaluable source of criminological information.

A vital part of the J.V. Barry Library is CINCH, a

computerised database of more than 23,000 references to Australian criminal justice material. The earliest record in the database is dated 1887 and ranges up to the latest information—journal articles, conference papers, books and government publications. CINCH spreads its influence widely—often inquirers are unaware that their own libraries depend heavily on the Library's database to satisfy criminal justice queries. The service is also widely used on compact disc and as a direct on-line service.



Publications

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he Australian Institute of Criminology publishes a wide range of periodicals, booklets, monographs and reports, on diverse topics, ranging from juvenile justice to DNA profiling as an aid to crime detection and prevention.

Booklets in the Institute's Crime Prevention series deal with practical approaches to crime problems. Titles include:

- *Preventing Car Theft and Crime in Car Parks*
- *Preventing Graffiti and Vandalism*
- *Protecting Counter and Interviewing Staff from Client Aggression*
- *Preventing Crime on Public Transport*
- *Preventing Retail Crime.*

The Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice series

highlights the Institute's research work in topical subjects:

- How the public see the police
- Victim impact statements
- A comparison of crime in Australia and other countries
- Serial murder.



The Institute produces a quarterly journal—*Criminology Australia*—which looks at the

criminological arena from a broad perspective. The journal examines issues such as white-collar crime, the work of the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, capital punishment and aspects of policing, looking not only at the theoreticians but also at practitioners.

Major works by prominent writers on issues like corporate crime are given wide circulation by the Publications Program.

Ground-breaking research on insider trading and regulatory enforcement was published by the Institute, reinforcing its role as the one central, independent body in its field.

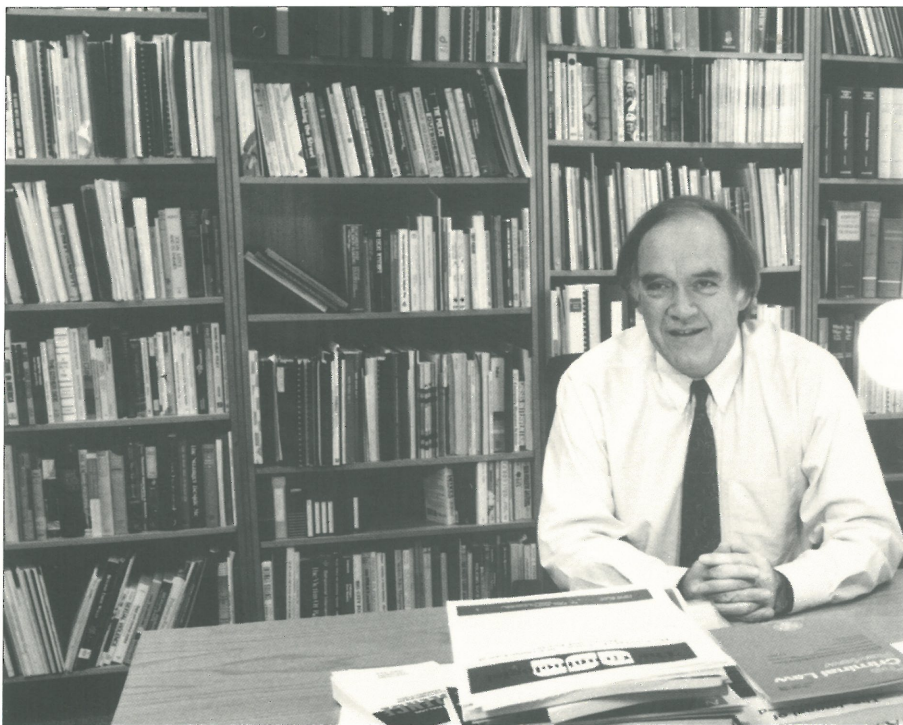
These publications are distributed extensively through the criminal justice community, politicians, the media, tertiary institutions, and secondary schools.

Directorate

From the Institute's Directorate comes the United Nations connection. Affiliated with the UN's Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, the Institute raises the profile of Australia in this forum.

The Institute has close ties with other UN criminal justice research institutes based in Tokyo, Rome and other parts of the world. Policymakers, planners and scholars are linked by the United Nations Criminal Justice Information Network; the Australian Institute of Criminology is part of the core group maintaining this extensive computer link.

On the national scene, the Australian Institute of Criminology assists the country's policymakers through groups like the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, the Australian Police Ministers' Council and the Conference of Correctional Ministers and Administrators.



Special Programs

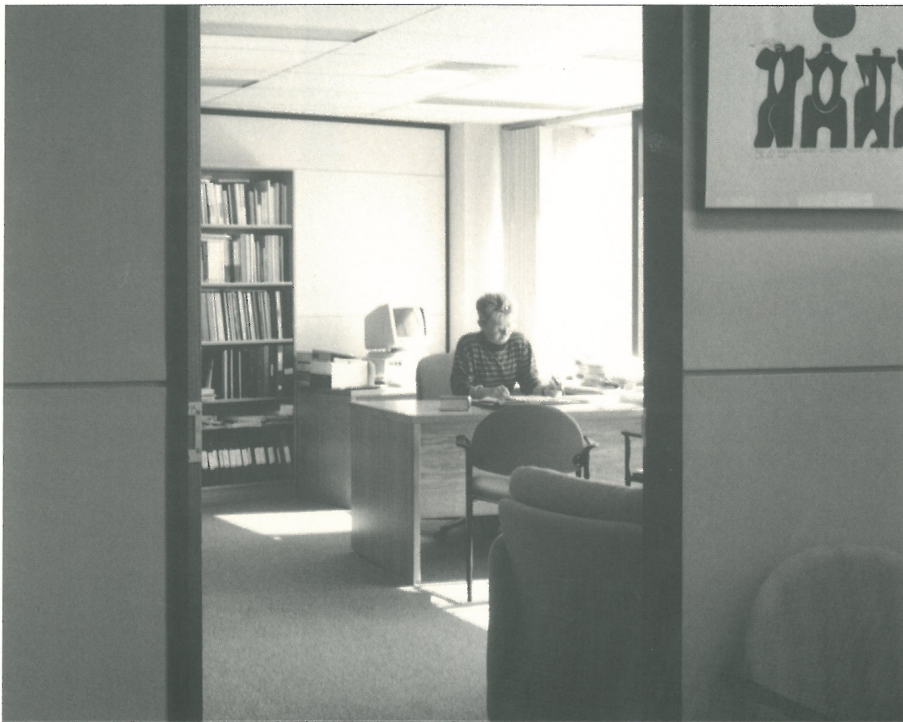
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ollowing some horrendous incidents of violence in Australia during the '80s and into the '90s, the Australian Institute of Criminology is now the base for the Violence Prevention Unit, including the Homicide Monitoring Program.

With the involvement of the Deputy Director of the Institute in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, the Institute now houses the new Deaths in Custody Monitoring and Research Unit, which will continue and extend the research work conducted by that Commission.

These groups carry out functions unique in our country—for instance the National Homicide Monitoring Program gathers and analyses national homicide figures and related information, the first time this has been done in Australia.

The Violence Prevention Unit is carrying on the important work



initiated by the National Committee on Violence, set up in 1989 by federal, state and territory government leaders. Recommendations of the Committee covered a diverse range of areas—from gun control to family violence issues—and the Violence Prevention Unit will monitor the implementation of those recommendations. The Unit will also

administer the Australian Heads of Government Violence Prevention Award, an innovative \$100,000 award for violence prevention programs.

The Institute



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he Australian Institute of Criminology stands at the centre of the study of the crime and criminal justice system in Australia. Its professional staff feel the pulse of that system and monitor it for Australia. The criminological community looks to the Institute for research, for assistance, for reference, for information, for debate.

Overseas criminal justice groups come to the Institute for help, sometimes for guidance.

The Australian Institute of Criminology is crucial to the way Australian criminal justice operates now and into the twenty-first century.

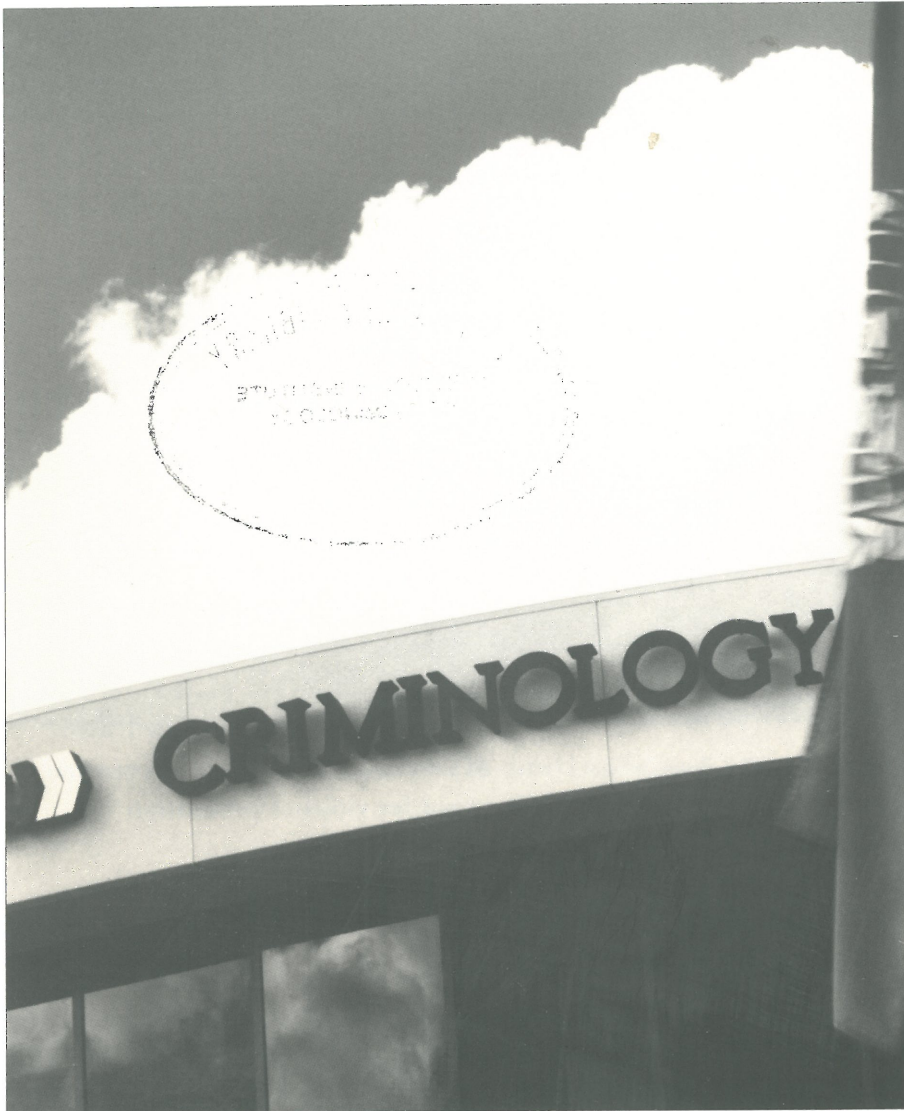
In Australia, the Institute remains the one central, independent source and focus for inquiry into crime and the criminal justice system. Its work in the past two decades has been recognised by leaders in the field. Its work continues to lead towards an understanding of crime and

all its ramifications, reflecting in improved legislation, greater awareness and a better society.

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