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A REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE  
CRIMINOLOGY RESEARCH COUNCIL

1972 - 1986

David Biles  
Deputy Director  
Australian Institute of Criminology

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David Biles

## Summary

In the first fourteen years of its operations the Criminology Research Council has provided funds for 134 separate research projects to a total value of over 1.5 million dollars. This review aims to assess the impact of this funding, with particular regard to the 101 projects that have been successfully completed. A number of projects which clearly had a positive impact on criminal justice policy or practice have been identified.

The methods used in this review include an analysis of Council decision-making from 1972-73 to 1985-86 using data published in Annual Reports, an examination of the Council files for each approved project with a view to identifying the factors associated with success or failure, and an analysis of the views of the researchers themselves on the impact or influence of their projects.

The trend analysis showed that grants made by the Council each year have closely approximated the funds available, and that average grants have increased from around \$8,000 to over \$15,000 over this period. The overall approval rate for applications was 47.5 per cent, with significant variations occurring from year to year. Only three projects were terminated by the Council, and since 1980-81 the numbers of projects in progress at the end of each year have decreased. Also, since 1981-82 the numbers of reports of completed projects received have exceeded the numbers of new projects approved.

The geographical distribution of approved projects has been roughly equivalent to the distribution of population, except for the fact that South Australian researchers received more grants than might have been expected. Nevertheless, researchers in every State received more from the Council than was contributed by their respective governments, due to the fact that half of the contribution to the Council comes from the Commonwealth.

Research in the areas of criminal behaviour and corrections was particularly likely to be supported, but in recent years there was a more even spread across all areas of criminology. Researchers in universities and colleges received more grants than those in government or private organisations, and the approved projects were most likely to be descriptive or evaluative.

Most successful applications had been assessed as 'Very Good' or 'Good', with smaller numbers being seen as 'Outstanding', 'Borderline' or 'Passable'. No applications that were assessed as 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' were approved by the Council. The majority of completed projects resulted in a report, but less commonly the products were journal articles, books, theses, chapters in books or films.

Most projects took more time to complete than had been projected by the researchers, and there was a tendency for the more expeditiously completed projects as well as the less expensive projects to be seen as having given greater value for money.

Over 68 per cent of the researchers who were contacted provided detailed information on the extent to which the reports of their projects had influenced criminal justice policy or practice, or had been cited in court cases or by criminal justice practitioners or in the criminological literature. Of these, over 85 per cent supplied evidence of positive value of their research and in nearly 40 per cent of the cases evidence of direct or indirect impact of the research was provided.

The report concludes with a discussion of the development of the policy that guides the work of the Council and a consideration of a number of administrative or management issues. Even though there are no agreed criteria for successful research in criminology, this review has clearly demonstrated the practical value of the work of the Criminology Research Council and its contribution to more efficient, effective and humane criminal justice services throughout Australia.

## Introduction

Since its establishment in 1973 the Criminology Research Council has provided funds for 134 separate research projects, 101 of which have been completed. Total expenditure has been a little over \$1.5 million. In view of these relatively large figures, it is timely and important to review the work of the Council and, in particular, to establish what impact this work has had on criminal justice practice and policy.

Many people would probably suggest that if criminological research cannot be shown to influence criminal justice then it is without value and a waste of public money, but such a suggestion may be unreasonably harsh. The impact of research may well be indirect and diverse rather than direct and specific. It is quite conceivable that an outstanding research project would, with the passage of time, add to knowledge, inform the public, change attitudes, assist the understanding and even predict the future without having any immediate and demonstrable effect on the way that judges, police or prison officers do their jobs. On the other hand, research into crime and justice, particularly if it is funded from the public purse, probably more than any other social science research, is widely expected to produce results of practical value.

There are a number of Council-funded projects that can be readily identified as having had a direct and immediate impact on practice or policy. For example, a study of women charged and convicted of homicide in New South Wales (Lansdowne & Bacon, 1982) was clearly influential in changing the law to remove the mandatory life sentence for murder in that State. Similarly, an evaluation of a delinquency prevention program in Western Australia (Dufty & Richards, 1978) which tended to show that the program increased rather than decreased the probability of the young people in the program being convicted led to the program being dismantled. Also, an evaluation of the Tasmanian Work Order Scheme (Mackay & Rook, 1976) in the 70s was undoubtedly influential in encouraging all other Australian jurisdictions to develop similar schemes for the non-custodial treatment of offenders.

A study of the welfare role of police with respect to family problems in Victoria (Foreman, 1981) was of critical relevance to the



establishment of community policing squads in that State. A study of the operation of the 'Rape in Marriage' law in South Australia (Sallmann & Chappell, 1980) was obviously relevant to the introduction of similar legislation elsewhere. A national review of gun ownership and firearms control (Harding, 1981) recommended a legislative approach that was adopted in a number of jurisdictions. Similarly, the recommendations of a study that assessed the utility of fines in Victoria (Challinger, 1983) was subsequently reflected in legislation in that State. An evaluation of a group therapy program for men who had been violent towards women in South Australia (Wehner, 1985) attracted considerable national attention as it showed that attitudes and behaviour can be changed. Also, an action project which aimed to improve Aboriginal/police relations in the Pilbara region of Western Australia (Roberts, et al, 1986) was clearly a positive contribution towards the amelioration of a long-standing and widespread problem.

Other projects funded by the Council which was clearly of immediate practical relevance are those in the area of forensic sciences or criminalistics. There have been very few of these but they include a study of petroleum residuals in arson (Thatcher, 1982), the establishment of a data base for the identification of small glass fragments (Terry, et al, 1983), and a study of the entomological correlates that might be used in estimating the time of death (Morris, 1982).

These are but a few cases where research projects can be shown to have had positive impact. They have directly contributed to either the cost-effectiveness or the humanity of criminal justice processes. In many other cases, perhaps the majority, the link between research and practice is less direct and obvious. In this category might be included the Council-funded projects which have focused on the principles of sentencing in a number of jurisdictions (Fox & Freiberg, 1985), the surveys of juvenile offenders (Challinger, 1974) and the studies of public attitudes towards crime and justice (Broadhurst, 1982). On these and other areas the information provided by the completed reports has undoubtedly contributed to knowledge and has been used for teaching purposes in universities and therefore may well have indirectly had an impact on the attitudes and decision-making processes of criminal justice practitioners.

### Background

The Criminology Research Council was established by S.34 of the Criminology Research Act 1971 (Cmth), the legislation that also established the Australian Institute of Criminology. The Council, which comprises one representative of the Commonwealth and one representative from each State, is required to control and administer the Criminology Research Fund and:

for that purpose, to examine, and determine the relative importance and urgency of, projects for which the expenditure of moneys from the Fund may be authorised. (S.40).

Among its functions, the Institute is required:

1. to advise the Council in relation to needs for, and programs of criminological research;
2. to provide secretarial and administrative services to the Council; and
3. to give advice and assistance in relation to any research performed wholly or partly with moneys provided out of the Fund. (S.6).

The moneys constituting the Fund are provided fifty per cent by the Commonwealth and fifty per cent by the States, the latter contributing on a per capita basis.

Full details of projects funded by the Council and reports of completed research have been given in successive annual reports of the Council which have been tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament, but it was nevertheless decided by the Council that a more comprehensive review would be appropriate at this time.

The timeliness of this review is underlined by the fact that the Criminology Research Act was recently amended to make provision for a Northern Territory representative on the Council (in addition to making other changes in the functions and administration of the Institute) with the result that the Council is about to enter a new era. An earlier review of research priorities produced in 1976 (Biles, 1976) was based on insufficient data to make an overall assessment of the work of the Council and recommended that further monitoring be undertaken. As will be seen

later many research projects take several years to complete and therefore it is appropriate that a comprehensive review be attempted at a time when the work of the Council is well established. A further consideration making this review timely is the fact that 1986-87 marks the culmination of a process of restoring the value of the Fund. This level of governmental commitment in itself constitutes a sound reason for assessing the success or otherwise of the Council's work. The main purpose of this review is to provide a basis for further policy developments by the Council.

### Methodology

Three different approaches have been used in this review. In the first place, basic data have been assembled indicating for each year of its operation the numbers of applications for grants (both initial and additional) considered and approved or refused by the Council, projects terminated, income received, value of grants made, and the numbers of reports of completed projects received. These data were compiled from annual reports and from minutes of Council meetings, and provide the basis for the analysis of trends in funding and decision-making by the Council.

Secondly, letters were sent to all successful grantees who could be contacted asking them to inform the writer of the extent to which their own Council-funded projects had resulted in changes to criminal justice policy or practice.

Thirdly, an attempt was made to make a summary of each project funded by the Council in such a way that the relevance of various factors associated with each project could be assessed. These summaries covered the following twenty-six factors:

1. Project title
2. Name(s) of grantee
3. Name(s) of researcher(s). If not 'as above'
4. Project number
5. Classification number (i.e. area of focus)
6. State or Territory
7. Type of research (descriptive, survey, evaluation, experimental, other)
8. Originality of proposal (high, average, low)

9. Qualifications of researcher(s) (high, average, low)
10. Experience of researcher(s) (high, average, low)
11. Affiliation of researcher(s) (academic, government, private)
12. Assessment provided to Council (OS, VG, G, Borderline, etc.)
13. Number of grants
14. Total value of grant(s)
15. Date of first grant
16. Projected completion date
17. Actual completion date
18. Project terminated (yes, no)
19. A.I.C. assistance to project (extensive, some, none)
20. Type of report (book, report, papers published by  
refereed journal)
21. Circulation of report (wide, some, little or none)
22. Reaction by Council (favourable, neutral, negative)
23. Reaction from others (favourable, neutral, negative)
24. Known impact on criminal justice practices (yes, no)
25. Media coverage of report (extensive, some, none)
26. DB assessment of value for money (high, average, Low)

In relation to the fifth factor, above, the classification number for each project was based on a classification system for research projects that was developed in 1975 and subsequently refined. This system is reproduced as Table 1, over page.

It is readily acknowledged that an unavoidable element of subjectivity was involved in classifying projects according to this system and in making ratings in relation to a number of the factors listed on each summary sheet. To the extent that personal judgment was necessary, all of the ratings were made by the writer who, as a part of his duties, has been the principal adviser to the Council since 1974. All of the projects were therefore well known to the writer, but it is regrettable that no other person could be engaged to provide more objective assessments. It would have been inordinately time-consuming and expensive to ask a criminologist with no prior knowledge of the Council to read all of the files and reports of completed projects in order to provide independent assessments.

Table 1: Classification System for Research Projects

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. COMMUNITY ATTITUDES               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. Seriousness of offences</li> <li>1.2. Opportunity for crime</li> <li>1.3. Victim survey</li> <li>1.4. Offender survey</li> <li>1.5. Media</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. POLICE               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1. Administration</li> <li>4.2. Operations</li> <li>4.3. Selection, training</li> <li>4.4. Criminalistics (forensic science)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. CRIMINAL LAW               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1. General                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1.1. comparative</li> </ul> </li> <li>2.2. Specific offences                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.2.1. comparative</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. COURTS               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1. Procedure, evidence</li> <li>5.2. Sentencing</li> <li>5.3. Legal representation</li> <li>5.4. Bail/remand</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1. General                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1.1. adults/total</li> <li>3.1.2. juveniles</li> <li>3.1.3. females</li> <li>3.1.4. migrants</li> <li>3.1.5. Aborigines</li> </ul> </li> <li>3.2. Specific offences                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.2.1. adults/total</li> <li>3.2.2. juveniles</li> <li>3.2.3. females</li> <li>3.2.4. migrants</li> <li>3.2.5. Aborigines</li> </ul> </li> <li>3.3. Prediction</li> <li>3.4. Crime prevention</li> <li>3.5. Theories of criminality                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.5.1. general</li> <li>3.5.2. psychological</li> <li>3.5.3. sociological</li> </ul> </li> <li>3.6. Criminogenic factors                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.6.1. alcohol</li> <li>3.6.2. drugs</li> <li>3.6.3. motor vehicles</li> <li>3.6.4. firearms</li> </ul> </li> <li>3.7. Corporate crime</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. CORRECTIONS               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.1. Non-custodial                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.1.1. adults/total</li> <li>6.1.2. juveniles</li> <li>6.1.3. females</li> <li>6.1.4. migrants</li> <li>6.1.5. Aborigines</li> </ul> </li> <li>6.2. Semi-custodial                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.2.1. adults/total</li> <li>6.2.2. juveniles</li> <li>6.2.3. females</li> <li>6.2.4. migrants</li> <li>6.2.5. Aborigines</li> </ul> </li> <li>6.3. Custodial                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.3.1. adults/total</li> <li>6.3.2. juveniles</li> <li>6.3.3. females</li> <li>6.3.4. migrants</li> <li>6.3.5. Aborigines</li> </ul> </li> <li>6.4. After-care</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

In view of the subjectivity necessarily involved in the assessments that form the basis of a significant part of this review, an effort has been made to avoid naming any individual researchers whose applications, progress or reports have been rated in any negative way. However, some individual projects that have been favourably received by the Council or are known to have had an impact on criminal justice practices have been identified.

Analysis of Trends

At the time of its establishment the Criminology Research Act provided for \$50,000 to be allocated to the Criminology Research Fund, and this was matched by an equivalent amount from the States. Thus the Council had \$100,000 available to it in the first year of its operation, 1972-73. As can be seen from Table 2, this level of funding was sustained for two further years, at which time it was increased by twenty-five per cent before being cut to a total of \$20,000 in 1976-77. For each of the following three years the Council received a total of \$60,000, before reverting to the original level of \$100,000. In 1983-84, however, a graduated increase in the Fund was started. This was agreed by the Commonwealth and the States and resulted in the total income to the Fund being \$190,000 in 1985-86 and \$250,000 in 1986-87, the latter figure not being shown in the table.

Table 2: Criminology Research Council Income and Total Value of Research Grants Approved, 1972-73 to 1985-86

<u>Year</u>	<u>Income to Council</u>	<u>Value of Total Grants Approved</u>
1972-73	\$100,000	\$7,900
1973-74	100,000	96,878
1974-75	100,000	117,703
1975-76	125,000	91,656
1976-77	20,000	106,507
1977-78	60,000	110,243
1978-79	60,000	111,362
1979-80	60,000	80,797
1980-81	100,000	86,082
1981-82	100,000	111,110
1982-83	110,000	113,545
1983-84	114,000	99,911
1984-85	150,000	180,795
1985-86	190,000	189,623

The data in Table 2 do not reflect the very small amounts of other income to the Council, largely coming from interest on investments, nor do they reflect other minor expenditure incurred by the Council, such as the costs of newspaper advertisements. Furthermore, in a small number of cases some unexpended moneys awarded in grants have been returned to the Council at the completion of relevant projects. Table 2 indicates only the global figures of appropriations made by Governments to the Council and the value of grants made, regardless of whether they were totally expended or not.

It should also be noted that in many cases, even though a grant was made by the Council in a particular year, the actual disbursement of funds may well have continued into the following years.

The column indicating the total value of grants approved by the Council shows a gradual trend towards increase but with a significant lowering in the totals for 1979-80 and 1980-81. This was clearly a reflection of the lower levels of income made available to the Council in the preceding years. If these figures had been adjusted to reflect the impact of inflation, the general picture would have been one of declining value in both income and grants except for the two most recent years.

A further analysis of trends in the work of the Council is given in Table 3. In this table the numbers of applications considered by the Council each year and the average value of grants made are shown with a distinction being drawn between initial and additional applications for grants.

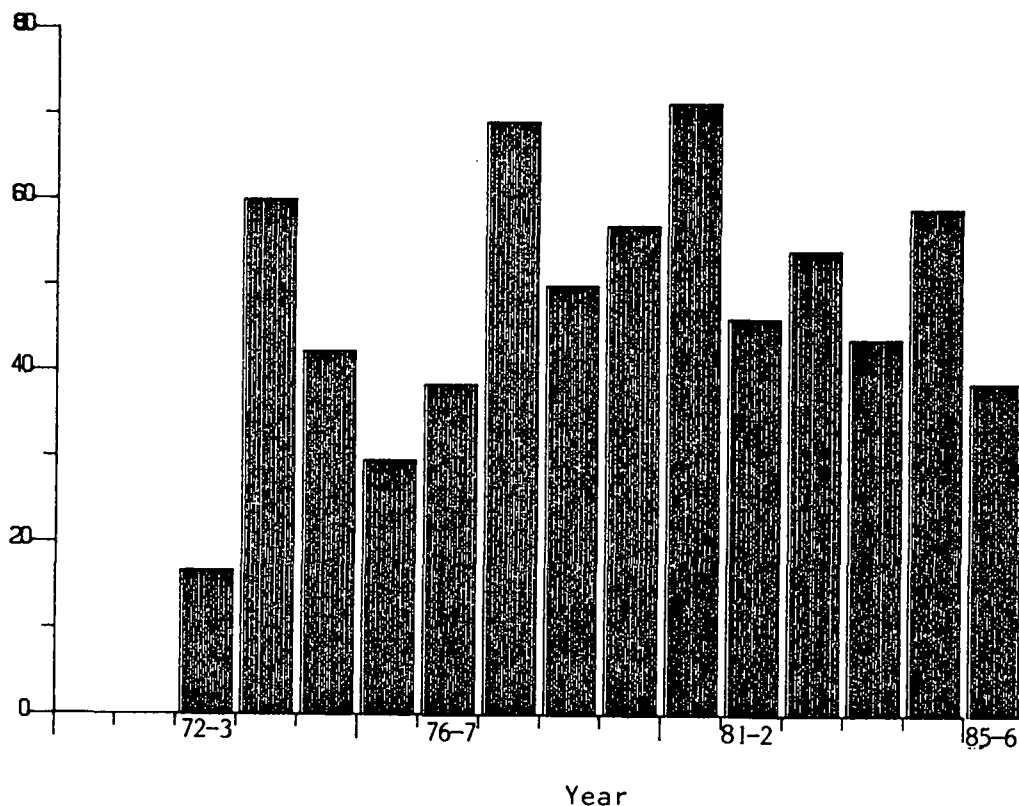
Table 3: Initial and Additional Applications Considered and Approved and Average Grants, 1972-73 to 1985-86

<u>Year</u>	<u>Applications Considered</u>		<u>Applications Approved</u>		<u>Average Grants</u>	
	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Additional</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Additional</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Additional</u>
1972-73	6	-	1	-	\$7,900	-
1973-74	15	2	9	2	9,200	\$7,040
1974-75	26	3	11	3	8,806	6,944
1975-76	27	6	8	6	8,190	4,356
1976-77	26	4	10	4	8,167	6,210
1977-78	13	4	9	3	8,522	11,182
1978-79	22	5	11	3	9,818	1,121
1979-80	14	13	8	13	4,357	3,534
1980-81	14	3	10	3	7,718	2,966
1981-82	26	5	12	3	8,960	1,195
1982-83	24	2	13	2	7,840	5,813
1983-84	16	3	7	3	11,140	7,311
1984-85	22	5	13	5	11,793	5,496
1985-86	31	2	12	1	15,508	3,531
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>\$1,258,318</b>	<b>\$245,794</b>
<b>AVERAGE OF ALL GRANTS</b>					<b>\$9,390</b>	<b>\$4,819</b>
						<b>\$14,209</b>

It is apparent from this table that the average value of initial grants made by the Council was below \$10,000 until 1982-83, after which time there was a slight increase. It must be observed that this very low level of funding has meant that in many cases the projects that have been approved could most appropriately be described as 'pilot projects' with relatively small samples and little opportunity for intensive or long-term studies. In the majority of cases the grants have not been large enough to employ full-time professional research staff but they have often enabled researchers in universities and government departments to engage part-time research assistants and to provide for incidental expenses. Over the total period, the average grant for all projects has been \$14,209, with actual amounts varying between around \$500 to a very small number over \$25,000. It should be noted however that in some cases Council grants have been used to supplement funding obtained from other sources.

From the data in Table 3 it is possible to calculate the proportion of applications considered that have been approved or rejected, and it is clear that applications for additional grants have a much greater chance of success. In fact, over the total period, 89.5 per cent of applications for additional grants were approved compared with only 47.5 per cent of initial applications. Fluctuations in the approval rate of initial applications are shown in Figure 1, and from this it can be seen that this rate has been over 70 per cent, in 1980-81, but below 40 per cent in several years, including 1985-86.

Figure 1: Percentage Applications Approved, 1972-73 to 1985-86





The third and final analysis of trends derived from annual reports is shown in Table 4. This table indicates the numbers of new projects approved each year, the numbers in progress at the end of each year, the numbers terminated and the numbers of reports of completed projects received by the Council each year.

Table 4: Projects Approved, in Progress, Terminated and Completed, 1972-73 to 1985-86

<u>Year</u>	<u>New Projects Approved</u>	<u>Projects in Progress*</u>	<u>Projects Terminated</u>	<u>Reports of Completed Projects Received</u>
1972-73	1	-	-	-
1973-74	9	1	-	-
1974-75	11	7	-	3
1975-76	8	15	-	3
1976-77	10	18	-	5
1977-78	9	21	1	5
1978-79	11	25	-	5
1979-80	8	32	-	4
1980-81	10	33	-	7
1981-82	12	29	-	15
1982-83	13	28	1	12
1983-84	7	26	-	15
1984-85	13	21	-	12
1985-86	12	18	1	15
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>101</b>

\* at the end of each year, but approved in earlier years

A number of observations must be made on the data shown in this table. In the first place, it can be seen that only three of the 134 projects funded were formally terminated by the Council. In two of these cases the termination was based on unsatisfactory progress by the researchers, the details being given in the relevant annual reports, and in another case the researcher was unable to gain access to necessary data. After this case, the Council has routinely required applicants to provide documentary evidence of co-operation and access that may be required.

A second observation on Table 4 relates to the declining numbers of projects in progress at the end of each year. This number reached a peak of thirty-three in 1980-81 and then steadily declined to eighteen at the end of 1985-86. This trend is almost certainly the result of Institute staff who support the Council maintaining frequent contact with grantees who have not produced final reports at the expected time. As will be seen later, however, the majority of grantees have in fact exceeded their projected time limits. Nevertheless, it is clear that the Council will not tolerate projects drifting along with no end in sight, and the results of this attitude are shown in Table 4. Apart from supplying funds for criminological research the Council also imposes a degree of discipline and accountability on the researchers that it assists.

The final comment that must be made on Table 4 is that the numbers of final reports received by the Council in the most recent five years are substantially higher than in the preceding period. From 1981-82 the numbers of projects completed were generally higher than the numbers of new projects approved. This trend obviously will not continue indefinitely but the general pattern suggests that it took nearly ten years before the Council was operating at a fully functional level.

#### Characteristics of Approved Projects

The following series of cross tabulations are all developed from the summary lists of relevant factors described earlier. As was pointed out, some of these factors involve an element of subjective assessment by the writer. Some of these tables are based on all projects approved by the Council and others are based on 101 completed projects.

Jurisdiction of research. Table 5 shows the number of projects approved by the Council each calendar year from 1973 to mid 1986 by the jurisdictional location of the grantees. In cases where the project has involved two or more researchers from different jurisdictions, or where the focus of the research has been in more than one jurisdiction, the project has been classified according to the principal location of the senior researcher.

Table 5: Jurisdiction of Approved Projects, 1972-73 to 1985-86

<u>Year</u>	<u>N.S.W.</u>	<u>VIC.</u>	<u>QLD</u>	<u>W.A.</u>	<u>S.A.</u>	<u>TAS.</u>	<u>N.T.</u>	<u>A.C.T.</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
1972-73						1				1
1973-74	2	2	2	2	1					9
1974-75	3	2	1	2		2			1	11
1975-76	4	2			1	1				8
1976-77	1	1		2	3	1		1	1	10
1977-78		3		1	3	1		1		9
1978-79	3	3	1	1	1	1	1			11
1979-80	1		1	2	4					8
1980-81	2	3	1	1			1	2		10
1981-82	2	3	1	2	2	1		1		12
1982-83	1	5	3		3			1		13
1983-84	2	1	2	1	1					7
1984-85	7	1	1	2	2					13
1985-86	4	3	2	1	2					12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>PER CENT</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

From this table it can be seen that the geographic distribution of projects funded by the Council has been roughly in accord with the distribution of population. For example, New South Wales received 23.9 per cent of grants and Victoria 21.6 per cent, these proportions approximately reflecting the size of the two largest jurisdictions. Similarly, the smaller jurisdictions all received smaller proportions but there may have been some under-representation of Queensland and over-representation of Tasmania in the first few years of the Council's operation. Throughout the period South Australia seems to have fared rather better than might have been expected.

Notwithstanding the small deviations from the expected distribution, Table 6 demonstrates that researchers in each State have received more money back from the Fund than each State contributed. This is due of course to the fact that half of the contributions to the Fund have come from the Commonwealth.

Table 6: Funds Granted and Contributed by each Jurisdiction, 1972-73 to 1985-86

	<u>N.S.W</u>	<u>VIC.</u>	<u>QLD</u>	<u>W.A.</u>	<u>S.A.</u>	<u>TAS.</u>	<u>N.T.</u>	<u>A.C.T.</u>	<u>Other</u>
Total funds granted	392,380	334,446	141,640	219,914	243,558	91,290	22,760	49,624	8,500
Total contribution	254,755	192,590	104,627	55,332	65,482	21,714			

Area of Research Focus. As outlined earlier, all projects approved by the Council have been allocated a number from the classification system reproduced in Table 1. The data shown in Table 7, below, are based only on the six major headings of the classification system.

Table 7: Area of Research Focus of Approved Projects, 1972-73 to 1985-86

<u>Year</u>	<u>Community Attitudes</u>	<u>Criminal Law</u>	<u>Criminal Behaviour</u>	<u>Police</u>	<u>Courts</u>	<u>Corrections</u>	<u>Total</u>
1972-73			1				1
1973-74	1		6			2	9
1974-75			4		1	6	11
1975-76			2		3	3	8
1976-77			4	3	1	2	10
1977-78	2	1	1	2		3	9
1978-79	2		5	2	2		11
1979-80	1		3	1	1	2	8
1980-81	1		5	1	1	2	10
1981-82			7		1	4	12
1982-83		1	5		1	6	13
1983-84	1		2	1	2	1	7
1984-85	3	1	4	3		2	13
1985-86	2	1	1	1	4	3	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>PER CENT</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This represents no more than a crude attempt to identify the major areas of research focus. The data do suggest, however, that the major areas supported by the Council have related to criminal behaviour, 37.3 per cent, and corrections, 26.9 per cent, with research related to the criminal

law being particularly less favoured. Despite this overall pattern, it is interesting to note that there has been a more even spread of projects across the major areas in recent years.

An examination of the more refined classification system reveals some further interesting findings. These data are difficult to present in a readable statistical table, but this examination has shown that the most frequently allocated classification number was 6.3.1., i.e. 'Custodial, adults/total'. There were sixteen projects within this classification. The next most frequently occurring classifications were 3.1.2, 'Criminal Behaviour, juveniles', with twelve cases, and 5.1, 'Courts, procedure, evidence' with ten cases.

In contrast to the areas in which there has been a fairly heavy concentration of research projects, it is worthy of note that no projects have been funded in relation to prediction of criminal behaviour, offender surveys or the effects of legal representation.

It must be stressed that the classification system that has been used for this analysis is not altogether satisfactory as many of the projects funded by the Council could have been classified in other ways. The system being used is but one possible approach to the classification of research projects.

Affiliation of Researchers. The following table shows the affiliation of Council grantees each year. From this table it can be seen that the largest group of grantees are described as 'academic', but it can also be seen that in the earlier years of the Council's work there was a more even distribution between the different types of researchers.

Table 8: Affiliation of Researcher(s) by Year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Academic</u>	<u>Government</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Total</u>
1972-73		1		1
1973-74	7	2		9
1974-75	4	7		11
1975-76	4	3	1	8
1976-77	5	5		10
1977-78	6	2	1	9
1978-79	8	2	1	11
1979-80	4	1	3	8
1980-81	7	3		10
1981-82	7	5		12
1982-83	9	2	2	13
1983-84	3	3	1	7
1984-85	8	2	3	13
1985-86	7	4	1	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>134</b>

Type of research. All of the projects approved by the Council were classified as Descriptive, Evaluative, Experimental, Survey or Other (including case studies). This classification revealed that the highest number, 37.3 per cent, were descriptive and a further 29.8 per cent were evaluative. 15.7 per cent were classified as experimental and 11.2 per cent were surveys of one type or another.

As the Council in its public advertisements has frequently expressed an interest in providing support for projects of an evaluative nature, it might be seen as disappointing that a larger number of approved projects were classified as descriptive. However, it might be argued that detailed description is a fundamental prerequisite to all research, including evaluation. Descriptive research also may well be seen as most cost-effective in view of the relatively low level of funding available.

Assessment Provided to the Council. In nearly every case where an application for a grant is to be considered by the Council reports are sought from named referees and other relevant persons. Also, the

applications are given ratings against a number of specific criteria and a written assessment which is followed by an overall rating ranging from 'Outstanding' to 'Very Poor'. In a small number of cases, for particular reasons, no overall rating is made.

Table 9 shows in summary form the overall assessments provided to the Council against the type of research for all approved projects. It should be noted that this table only includes successful applications and therefore, not surprisingly, there are none rated as 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.

Table 9: Assessment of Applications by Type of Research

<u>Type of Research</u>	<u>Assessment provided to Council</u>						<u>Total</u>
	<u>Outstanding</u>	<u>Very Good</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Borderline</u>	<u>Passable</u>	<u>Nil</u>	
Descriptive	1	23	20	3	3		50
Survey		6	6	1	2		15
Evaluation	8	19	10		2	1	40
Experimental	2	9	8	1		1	21
Other		1	6		1		8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>134</b>

It may be seen from this table that the ratings 'Very Good' and 'Good' were most commonly given to the applications that were successful. It also seems to be the case that projects classified as 'Evaluative' were more likely than others to receive an assessment of 'Outstanding'.

Affiliation of Researchers and Types of Reports. As shown in Table 8 just over half of the research projects completed were undertaken by researchers in universities or colleges, whose affiliation is described as 'academic', while smaller numbers were completed by researchers in government or private organisations. It is of some interest to compare the types of reports, or research products, that were submitted to the Council by researchers of different affiliations. This is done in Table 10.

Table 10: Affiliation of Researchers and Types of Report

<u>Type of Report</u>	<u>Academic</u>	<u>Affiliation of Researcher(s)</u>		<u>Total</u>
		<u>Government</u>	<u>Private</u>	
Book	11	1		12
Chapter in Book	2			2
Report	26	28	9	63
Papers in Journals	11	5	1	17
Thesis	5			5
Film	2			2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>101</b>

The clear majority of research products submitted by researchers of all affiliations are described as 'reports'. These are generally duplicated with covers and binding determined by the authors. It can also be seen that the products of academic researchers are more likely than others to be in the form of books, chapters in books or papers in scholarly journals. Only rarely have government or private researchers departed from the traditional report format. The unexpected aspect of this analysis is the extent to which academic researchers, who are generally committed to publish in refereed journals or in books, were prepared to have the results of their work appear in duplicated reports. It is quite likely however that some of these were later published in abridged form in academic journals.

Duration of Research Projects: Every person applying for a grant from the Council is required to indicate the projected completion time for the proposed research project. The Council recognises that the progress of research is not always predictable and, within reasonable limits, is generally willing to approve requests from grantees for extensions of time. Nevertheless, it may come as a surprise to researchers and also to Council members to note the extent of time over-run that has occurred in most completed projects. This is shown in Table 11.



Table 11: Duration of Research Projects

<u>Projected time</u>	<u>Actual completion time</u>								<u>Total</u>
	<u>Under 6 months</u>	<u>6m.&gt; 1 yr</u>	<u>1yr&gt; 1.5yrs</u>	<u>1.5&gt; 2yrs</u>	<u>2yrs&gt; 3yrs</u>	<u>3yrs&gt; 4yrs</u>	<u>4yrs&gt; 5yrs</u>	<u>5yrs+</u>	
Under 6 months		7	3	2		2	1	1	16
6m.>1yr		8	6	7	8	6	2	4	41
1yr>1.5yrs		1	2	6	2	3	2	5	21
1.5yrs>2yrs			1	1	2	4		3	11
2yrs>3yrs					3	3	1		7
Over 3yrs			1		1			3	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>101</b>

Here it can be seen that the most common projected time for projects was from six months to one year, but the actual completion time was considerably greater. In fact, only eighteen of the 101 projects were completed in the projected time or less. Exactly forty of the projects took over three years to complete, compared with only five which were projected as requiring this length of time.

These comments are not meant to imply that researchers who have received grants from the Council are necessarily lazy or inefficient. Some of them may be, but it is widely accepted that to the extent that research is a step into the unknown, its progress cannot be predicted with precision. Furthermore, where persons have other responsibilities as well as research, as is the case with most Council grantees, it is not uncommon for priorities to change and for teaching or administrative duties to interfere with progress with research. Notwithstanding these considerations, the Council is unlikely to change its practice of requiring grantees to apply for extensions of time when projected timetables cannot be met. The worth of this practice seems to be demonstrated by the fact that only a very small number of projects have been terminated for unsatisfactory progress.

Value of Grants and Worth of Research Products: As indicated earlier, the average size of grants made by the Council, including initial and additional grants, was just over \$14,000 per project over the 14-year period. The distribution of grants in terms of value is shown in Table 12 as far as completed projects are concerned. From this it can be seen that over half were for less than \$10,000 and only eleven out of 101 were for \$20,000 or more. This table also indicates the subjective rating of the writer of the value for money, or worth, of the completed projects.

Table 12: Value of Grants and Worth of Completed Project

<u>Total Value of Grant</u>	<u>D.B. Assessment of Value for Money</u>			<u>Total</u>
	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>High</u>	
Under \$5,000	4	8	16	28
\$5,000 to \$9,999	5	11	10	26
\$10,000 to \$14,999	8	5	5	18
\$15,000 to \$19,999	4	8	6	18
\$20,000 to \$24,999	4	1	2	7
\$25,000 +	3		1	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>101</b>

It is recognised of course that the comparison of value of grants and value for money of the research products is contaminated by the fact that the rating is obviously influenced by the actual size of the grant. This is illustrated by the fact that low value grants are much more likely to be rated as high in terms of value for money. Nevertheless, it is of interest to note that overall more projects were rated as high value for money than were rated as average or as low. In fact, only a little more than a quarter of the projects received a low rating. There was a tendency for projects that had taken more than three years to complete to be given a low rating, probably because in the opinion of the writer the results were out of date.

While the data in Table 12 might be interpreted in many different ways, for example as illustrating the generally optimistic and supportive attitude of the writer towards criminological research, they could also be seen as demonstrating that worthwhile research results can be obtained for relatively small outlay. In this area of the evaluation of the work of the

Council, more than in any other, the availability of second or even third opinions would have been of great assistance. Perhaps in the future, independent assessors could be asked to express their views on reports of completed projects.

Other Factors: It will be noticed by the careful reader that not all of the factors listed on pp. 4-5 have been subjected to statistical analysis. Those factors not discussed thus far were found to be insufficiently reliable to warrant further consideration or they produced distributions that were markedly skewed and thus to some extent uninformative. For example, an attempt was made to relate the prior experience of the researchers with the level of assistance given to the projects by the Institute. This was to test the hypothesis that less experienced researchers were more likely to seek and receive assistance. This was found to be the case, but only three of the completed projects received extensive assistance and a further seventeen received some. The overwhelming majority received no significant assistance from the Institute. It is quite likely, however, that many grantees did not realise that one of the functions of the Institute is to provide advice and assistance to Council grantees.

Similarly, a clear majority of successful applicants for grants who completed their projects were rated as having had considerable experience as researchers. Furthermore, a majority of successful applicants not unexpectedly were rated as high as far as originality of their proposals were concerned. No reliable measures could be obtained for the reaction of the Council and the reaction of others to completed reports, with virtually all being rated as either favourable or neutral. Therefore, no detailed analysis of these factors was attempted.

As an appendix to this report a full list of completed projects has been compiled.

#### Views of the Researchers Themselves

As mentioned earlier, letters were sent to all successful grantees who could be contacted asking them to provide information about the extent to which their research projects had resulted in changes to criminal justice practice or policy. The letters specifically requested details of

'legislative reforms, also changes and outcomes to court cases that may be attributable, wholly or in part, to your work'. These letters were not sent to all of the researchers responsible for the 101 completed projects as, with the passage of time, many current addresses were not available. A total of sixty-six letters were sent and forty-five replies were received. In some cases two or three grantees associated with a single project were contacted, but this was balanced by the fact that in other cases individual researchers had received grants for more than one project. The overall response rate of over 68 per cent was considered to be more than satisfactory.

Furthermore, the quality and detail supplied by the grantees was especially gratifying. Some replies gave three or four pages of detail about the impact of projects, and there seemed to be little or no tendency for the respondents to exaggerate the importance of their work. On the contrary, many were self-effacing about the impact of their research and suggested, for example, that legislative or other change that had occurred would probably have taken place without their influence. Others added more general statements about the work of the Criminology Research Council such as, 'There is no doubt in my mind that the Council has had a major effect on the criminal justice scene through its support of a far reaching range of studies', and 'The receipt of a prestigious grant is very useful to a researcher in that it confers a status upon the project that fosters acceptance and help which might not otherwise be forthcoming'.

The information contained in the grantees' letters was sufficiently detailed for each of them to be fairly easily classified into one or other of the following categories:

1. The grantee has provided evidence which shows that the project definitely influenced changes in legislative or criminal justice policy.
2. The grantee has indicated that the project had some indirect impact which led to changes in legislation or criminal justice policy.
3. The report or results of the project have been cited in court cases.
4. The report or the results of the project have been favourably cited by criminal justice practitioners and may have influenced attitudes but there is no evidence of direct impact.
5. The report of the project has been cited in the criminal legislature but was not necessarily influential in criminal justice circles.

## 6. No known impact/too early to assess.

The results of this classification are shown in Table 13 and from this it can be seen that there was some element of positive impact or influence in over 85 per cent of the cases. In only a small minority of cases were the researchers unable to point to any impact of their work, most often because their reports had only recently been released or published. The most encouraging aspect of these results is the fact that in nearly 40 per cent of the cases there was clear evidence indicating that the research had had either direct or indirect impact on criminal justice practice or policy.

Table 13: Researchers' Views of the Impact of their Work on Criminal Justice Practice or Policy

	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
1. Definitely influential	5	11.1
2. Some indirect impact	12	26.7
3. Cited in court cases	4	8.9
4. Cited by practitioners	11	24.4
5. Cited in literature	7	15.6
6. No impact/too early	6	13.3
TOTAL	<u>45</u>	<u>100.0</u>

### Discussion and Conclusions

The preceding pages have endeavoured to summarise the basic facts about the operation of the Criminology Research Council since its establishment in 1972. There can be no doubt that the Council has had a very significant influence on many areas of criminal justice as well as on the opportunities for criminological researchers. In fact, it could be argued that, as a consequence of the existence of the Council, researchers in criminology in Australia are more privileged than are researchers in many other disciplines who are dependent on broadly based funding agencies such as the Australian Research Grants Committee (ARGC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC). On the other hand, these bodies have comparatively large budgets and their average grants are

considerably larger than those awarded by the Criminology Research Council. Furthermore, studies of crime and criminal justice would only rarely be of interest to the ARGC and NH&MRC.

The Criminology Research Council at its quarterly meetings has inevitably been required to make decisions which have had wider implications than the approval or rejection of particular applications and the Council has thus established its own policy. Council policy is regularly reviewed as new issues arise and unique decisions have to be made, but the main elements of established Council policy to date can be summarised fairly briefly.

From its very early meetings the Council established that it would not provide funds for overseas travel nor for the organisation of seminars or conferences. Also the Council has confirmed on many occasions that it is not particularly interested in providing funds for books about crime of a very general nature. For example, applications to undertake autobiographical works by ex-offenders or by former police or prison administrators are most unlikely to be received sympathetically by the Council. The Council also does not see itself as an educational support agency and is therefore not particularly interested in providing living allowances for students wishing to pursue higher degrees. However, it has been resolved that an applicant pursuing a higher degree is not a ground for rejection and in fact a number of Council-approved projects were in this category. The basic merit of the proposal is the prime consideration rather than the individual consequences for the applicant.

In general, the work of the Criminology Research Council is complementary to that of the Australian Institute of Criminology. Most Council-approved projects are focused on specific geographical regions and frequently make use of primary data-gathering through interviews, questionnaires or direct observation. In contrast, research undertaken by the Institute itself is more likely to be of a national/comparative focus and will most likely make use of secondary data, i.e. information or statistics gathered by other agencies. There are a number of exceptions to this broad distinction but the Council sees the complementary nature of the two types of research as both cost-effective and efficient.

The underlying theme that has dominated the Council's decision-making since its establishment has been the desirability of research being supported that potentially is of practical value to the prevention of crime and the humane and efficient operation of criminal justice throughout the country. This emphasis on the practical value of projects has led the Council to be disinclined to support proposals of a purely theoretical or scholarly interest. At the same time, the Council has always recognised that first-class research will have a sound theoretical base.

A policy matter of considerable debate, particularly in the early years of the Council's work, is the extent to which the Council should adopt a pro-active or re-active role. As must be apparent from the facts and figures presented earlier, the Council has almost exclusively adopted a re-active stance in that it has primarily been concerned with the consideration of applications that have been submitted to it. From time to time, however, the Council has taken the view that it should for itself decide the most urgent priorities in criminal justice and specifically solicit proposals in named areas. For example, the Council has frequently stressed its interest in research which aims to evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention or correctional programs, and it has also affirmed that research relating to Aborigines and criminal justice will be given high priority. More specifically, on a small number of occasions the Council has publicly invited proposals on very precise questions such as the influence of television on delinquent behaviour. This approach, however, has not been particularly fruitful.

The re-active stance of the Council contrasts strongly with criminological funding agencies in North America such as the, now defunct, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and the Canadian Solicitor-General's Department. These agencies largely operated on the basis of 'requests for proposals' being widely advertised and lengthy submissions being subsequently assessed. The limited funds available to the Criminology Research Council have made this highly pro-active approach untenable in Australia as the average value per grant in North America throughout the 1970s was in the region of \$100,000. The contemporary Australian equivalent would be approximately \$250,000, the total funds available to the Council in 1986-87! In order to make maximum use of its limited funds, the Council has taken the view that a re-active orientation is more likely to achieve demonstrable benefits.

This raises the question of whether or not the Council should endeavour to use its budget to promote research across the broad spectrum of issues that constitute criminology and criminal justice or whether it should concentrate its efforts in a small number of specific areas. The Council has clearly favoured the broad spectrum approach by endeavouring to fund projects in all major areas, and it has also been conscious of the desirability of paying due regard to the geographic distribution of approved projects. This is not to say that local projects need to be duplicated in all States and Territories, as one of the implicit criteria considered by the Council is the extent to which other criminal justice agencies will potentially benefit from research in one location.

There are two significant types of criminological research about which the Council has as yet not developed a clear policy position. In the first place, research of a longitudinal type has not received funding from the Council to date as the Council has generally taken the view that it wants results within a reasonable period of time rather than after several years. The doubts about whether or not to fund longitudinal projects may well be resolved in the near future as the Council may well feel that it has a significant accumulation of successful projects behind it and therefore is able to take a longer range view in the future. Longitudinal studies are necessarily very expensive, however, and unless they are jointly funded with other agencies they may remain beyond the resources of the Council.

The other area that is unresolved relates to research in the forensic sciences. As indicated earlier the Council has funded a small number of projects which fall into this area, and the Council-approved classification scheme makes provision for forensic sciences, or criminalistics, but there has always been some slight doubt as to whether or not this area is included in criminology and this doubt has been exacerbated by the difficulty of obtaining adequate advice on the quality of proposals in this area. This question remains unresolved for both the Council and the Institute. If the Institute in the future is given a mandate to undertake work in the area of forensic sciences then the Council will undoubtedly expand its activities as well.



This question provokes the question of whether or not the Council has reached the stage when it can insist that it will only approve of proposals that reflect the highest standards of research competence and scientific rigor. Undoubtedly the work of the Council has contributed to an improvement in the quality of criminological research, and this process has almost certainly been accelerated by the Institute's biennial seminars on research methodology to which all current Council grantees are invited, but it is nevertheless the case that very few Australian projects could be described as outstanding in terms of design, methodology and execution. Very frequently, sample sizes are so small that the results are suggestive rather than conclusive and only very rarely have attempts been made to match samples or to use random assignment. The validity and reliability of measuring instruments have tended to be assumed rather than empirically established, and, as indicated above, no longitudinal studies have been funded. This general picture probably reflects both the low level of funds available and the relative inexperience of many researchers. Nevertheless, it can be safely predicted that research quality will be increasingly considered by the Council to be an essential criterion in the future.

A further matter, which may be seen as more administrative than policy-related, concerns the frequency of Council meetings. Since its establishment the Council has always met on a quarterly basis (with one of the meetings each year generally being held in a location other than Canberra) and this has meant that persons can apply for grants at any time throughout the year. This is in very clear contrast to the procedures adopted by other funding agencies such as the ARGC and NH&MRC which have a one-year funding cycle with all applications in a particular year being required at a precise date. The Council meeting schedule has undoubtedly provided considerable flexibility, but it also has created occasional problems when applicants submit proposals just before a meeting date and inadequate time remains for proper assessments to be made. In a number of cases such as this, the applications have simply been deferred until the next meeting, which is always only three months later, but such deferrals have not always been understood and accepted by applicants. Some members of the Council have occasionally expressed the view that a meeting schedule of three times per year would be sufficient and would result in significant cost savings through reduction in travel required by members. Against this, however, would be the negative consequences of longer deferrals and a

predictable increase in the pressure of business to be resolved at each meeting. Probably the best solution is to retain quarterly meetings and at the same time to advise potential applicants to submit their proposals at least one month before each scheduled meeting date.

Another issue of policy and administration is the extent to which the Council should receive advice from persons with a broad range of expertise. In recent years the views of referees named by applicants have routinely been sought, but it is apparent that these views are not always totally objective. The advice of the writer is always given, using the check list of criteria shown in Appendix B together with a written report, but no one criminologist could possibly be seen as an expert in all areas of criminology. To overcome this difficulty, from time to time Institute researchers including the Director have been asked to prepare assessments on proposals and also the views of independent non-Institute researchers have been sought. The difficulty with this approach lies in the fact that different criteria may be implicitly used by different assessors. Nevertheless, with the ever present possibility of applicants seeking recourse to the Freedom of Information Act, the Ombudsman's office and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (and even the Human Rights Commission) it is undoubtedly wise for the Council and its support staff to have available the widest possible spectrum of relevant advice that it can obtain.

These considerations might be seen as relevant to the Institute arrangements for supporting the Council. At present, the Deputy Director has overall responsibility for providing support to the Council and his secretary acts as minutes secretary at Council meetings. The Executive Officer of the Institute also acts as Executive Officer to the Council and is responsible for the detailed documentation relating to the administration of approved projects, including the disbursement of funds and the investment of Council funds that are being held in reserve. The part-time secretary to the Executive Officer also assists with the preparation of accounts for payment and the handling of the extensive documentation. This arrangement means that no fewer than four people, all with other duties, spend some of their time handling thirty or forty 'active' files that relate to the work of the Council. This arrangement has certainly worked effectively and there have been no administrative or accounting difficulties as far as the Council is concerned, but it may be

desirable in the future for the administrative support to the Council to be located exclusively in one position. It is envisaged that such a position would be occupied by a person having no other duties as far as the Institute is concerned. This would ensure that all 'active' files were being constantly monitored such that due dates for progress reports, final reports and quarterly financial statements were given adequate attention. The details of the duty statement relating to such a position would clearly need further consideration, as would the appropriate level for such an appointment, but it is suggested that such an arrangement might be desirable in the future.

The current arrangements for the administrative support of the Council may possibly be partly responsible for the fact that most grantees take much longer to complete their projects than projected. As indicated earlier, the satisfactory completion of projects is regarded as much more important than completion on time, but nevertheless there may well be steps that can be taken to ensure that fewer grantees in the future are tardy in completing their work. This also relates to the question of the extent to which the Council and its support staff can reasonably apply pressure on grantees. Some degree of discipline is obviously required to meet the Conditions of Grant which is signed by all grantees, but there are virtually no sanctions, apart from naming in the Council's annual report, that can be applied to grantees who are late, fail to produce final reports, produce final reports that are unsatisfactory or who fail to follow prescribed budgets or approved methodologies.

Another issue that might warrant further consideration is whether the Council should routinely retain multiple copies of the reports of completed projects. The current arrangement requires grantees to supply fifteen copies of reports, for distribution to Council members and the Institute library, and grantees are also asked to indicate to the Council the extent to which they have distributed their report to relevant criminal justice agencies. Each annual report of the Council contains a statement to the effect that reports are the property of the grantees and that requests for copies should be directed to them rather than to the Institute. Despite this, the Institute receives numerous requests for reports of Council-funded projects. These are generally redirected to the relevant grantees, but in some cases spare copies are available for

distribution by the Institute. This is of course not possible when the report is in the form of a commercially published book, a large thesis or a film. A partial solution might be for Council support staff within the Institute to take a more active role in the circulation of those reports which are regarded as having particular value and which are in a form that can be readily copied.

The fundamental and perhaps insoluble question facing any review of research activities concerns the criteria for successful research. This issue has been discussed earlier in this report, but there is no easy or completely satisfactory answer. The central nub of the problem is succinctly summarised in a statement by the world renowned criminologist, Leslie T. Wilkins (private correspondence, 16 October 1986):

The main criterion of success in research in other areas is the degree of surprise experienced by people in the field. But surprise is not a feature much prized by administrators!

This statement undoubtedly reflects a basic truth about research but it would obviously be difficult to build into any assessment of research provision for the 'surprise factor'. On the other hand, the worst possible outcome for research in criminal justice and in other areas is for the recipients of the research products to dismiss the work on the ground that it has revealed nothing new and only confirmed what was previously known. Clearly, effective research must raise new questions, propose new solutions, or open new doors. If it does that and at the same time raises anxiety and concern it may well provide the basic motivation for change that is to the ultimate good.

Notwithstanding the intractable problems associated with identifying criteria for successful research, this review has clearly demonstrated that many of the projects funded by the Criminology Research Council have made a practical contribution towards the development of more efficient, effective and humane criminal justice services throughout Australia.

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1. Delinquency in Planned Urban Areas - Dr P.R. Wilson (1977)
2. A Survey of Juvenile Offenders, Victoria - Mr D. Challinger (1974)
3. A Survey of Juvenile Offenders, South Australia - Mr G. Bruff (1974)
4. Institutional Staff Training Procedures - Mr R. Sanson-Fisher (1975)
5. Migrant Crime in Australia - Mr R. Francis and Mr A. Cassell (1975)
6. Evaluation of the Tasmanian Work Order Scheme - Mr J.G. Mackay (1976)
7. The Children's Court Hearing - Mr D. Challinger (1975)
8. A Study of Community-Based Treatment for Young Offenders - Mr R. Sanson-Fisher (1977)
9. Crime and the Hobart Bridge Disaster - Mr E.V. Knowles (1976)
10. Behavioural Effects of Three Simulated Prison Environments - Professor S.H. Lovibond (1976)
11. Robbery Prevention and Detection Study - Director of New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (1977)
12. Crime and Police in Port Moresby - Mr M.L. Mackellar (1977)
13. Young Offenders in Victoria - Mr D. Challinger (1977)
14. Police Stress - Ms M.J. Davidson and Dr A. Veno (1977)
15. The Effects of Role Reversal in a Simulated Prison Experiment - Professor S.H. Lovibond (1978)
16. Sexually Explicit Materials and Serious Crime - Dr J.H. Court (1977)
17. Person Perception and Behaviour Patterns of Young Female Offenders - Ms Patrice Cooke (1978)
18. Evaluation of S.O.F.T.L.Y. (The Social Options For Teenagers Like You) Program - Mr K.A. Maine (1978)
19. An Evaluation of the Suspended Sentence in South Australia - Department of Correctional Services, South Australia (1978)
20. Social and Personal Impact of Pornography - Dr J.H. Court (1977)
21. Evaluation of the Western Australian Prison System - Dr J.E. Thomas (1978)
22. The Use and Form of Psychiatric Reports in Sentencing - Mrs C.A. Warner (1978)
23. Spatial Analysis of Juvenile Offending in the Brisbane Metropolitan Area - Mr V.L. Barlett (1980)

24. A Study of the Principles of Sentencing as Enunciated by South Australian Appellate Courts - Mrs M.W. Treacher (formerly Miss M.W. Daunton-Fear) (1980)
25. School Programs to Reduce Delinquent Behaviour - Ms L. Marnier (formerly Ms L. Emery) (1980)
26. Prison Administration in New South Wales 1896 to 1909 - Dr M. Sernack (1980)
27. Remands in South Australian Courts - Mr S.C. Cole (1980)
28. Mental Retardation and Stealing - Dr M.S. Jackson (1980)
29. Gun Ownership in Australia - Professor R. Harding (1981)
30. Criminal Law in the Bedroom: A Study of South Australian 'Rape in Marriage' Legislation - Dr D. Chappell and Mr P.A. Sallmann (1980)
31. A Pilot Program in Diversion and Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency - Mr A.P. Harris (on behalf of Darwin & Districts YMCA Youth Clubs) (1980)
32. Crime Perception and Inner City Population Migration - Mr J.R. Minnery (1981)
33. Public Attitudes to Various Types of Criminal Behaviour - Dr A.A. Landauer and Dr D.A. Pocock (1981)
34. Evaluation of the Sydney Drink-Driver Rehabilitation Program - Originally funded to Mr M. Farquhar, former Chairman of the Bench of Stipendiary Magistrates in New South Wales, completed by the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (1980)
35. Minor Sexual Offences in Australia - Dr J.H. Court (1981)
36. Literature Review on Recidivism - Ms Inge Riebe (1981)
37. Sentencing in the Lower Courts: A Statistical Analysis - Mr R.J. Homel (1982)
38. Forensic Implications of the Development of Maggots in Cadavers - Professor T.O. Browning (1982)
39. Tourism and Crime - Dr D.J. Walmsley, Mr R.M. Boskovic and Dr J.J. Pigram (1981)
40. The Welfare Role of the Police with Respect to Family Problems - Dr L.E. Foreman (1982)
41. A Survey of Juvenile Offenders, Queensland - Mr A. Eakin and Mr L. Reilly (1982)
42. Psychological, Social and Biological Origins and Control of Aggressive and Violent Behaviour - Dr T. Vinson and Dr W. Hemphill (1982)
43. Evaluation of Community Treatment Programs for Delinquent Youths in Victoria - Mr J. Martin, Mr J. Murray and Mr J.M. Olijnyk (1978)

44. A Manpower Analysis of Police Recruitment and Retention - Dr Glenn A. Withers (1982)
45. Recidivist Prisoners and Their Families - Dr K.M. Koller (1981)
46. Women Charged and Convicted of Homicide Offences in New South Wales - Mrs R.A. Omodei (1982)
47. The Development of a Quantitative Measure of the Fear of Crime - Mr R.W. Whitrod
48. Police Training and Social Interaction - Dr G.M. McGrath (1982)
49. Aboriginal Adolescent Offenders Study - Professor R. Kalucy and Ms M. Brady (1982)
50. Crime and Penal Strategy in Australia - Mr P. Ward and Dr G. Woods
51. The Identification of Petroleum Residues in Arsons - Dr F.A. Bull and Dr P.J. Thatcher (1982)
52. Recidivism Monitoring Program for Juvenile Delinquents in Western Australian Treatment Centres - Mr K.A. Maine (1979)
53. Crime Prevention: The Extent of Knowledge, Understanding and Expertise of Architects, Planners and Administrators - Ms W. Sarkissian and Mr D. Perlgut (1982)
54. Education and Justice Community Research - Mr R.G. Broadhurst (1982)
55. Victoria Police-Ambulance Service, Melbourne, Co-operative Study to Establish the Relationship between Drug Overdose and Criminality - Chief Commissioner of Police, Victoria (1983)
56. Juvenile Runaways - Alternatives to Incarceration - Dr P.R. Wilson (1982)
57. Perspectives of Juvenile Defendants on the Children's Court in Kalgoorlie and Kambalda - Mr K.A. Maine (1982)
58. The Effect of Summary Conviction and Court Enforced Fines on Problem Street Drinkers in Receipt of Social Security Payments - Mrs L. Boyce and Mr R. Okely (1982)
59. The Attitudes of Manufacturing Executives Towards Offences Against the Environment - Mr D.A. Cole and Ms J. Russell (1983)
60. Crime and Architectural Design in Brisbane - Dr G.F. de Gruchy (1983)
61. Disposition of Mentally Retarded Offenders - Dr S.C. Hayes (1984)
62. Evaluation of Jesuit Post-Release Youth Hostel - Reverend Father P.J. Norden, S.J. (1983)
63. An Investigation of Regional Differences in the Judicial Use and Perception of Probation as a Sentencing Option in Tasmania - Mr J.G. Mackay and Mr P.M. Donnelly (1983)



64. Prisoner Perceptions of the Prison Environment - Dr D. Weatherburn (1983)
65. Community Service: An Evaluation of the Impact of the Community Service Order Scheme in Queensland - Mr J.J. Perkins (1983)
66. Multi-Problem Families - Dr E. Cunningham Dax
67. Recidivism Rates of Violent Offenders - Department of Community Welfare Services, Victoria (1984)
68. The Identification of Small Glass Fragments for Forensic Purposes - Dr K.W. Terry, Mr A. van Riessen and Mr B.F. Lynch (1983)
69. Assessing the Utility of Fines - Mr D. Challinger (1983)
70. Crime and Society in Western Australia 1829-1914 - Mr A.W. Gill (1983)
71. Evaluation of Intensive Neighbourhood Care Program - Department of Community Welfare, South Australia (1983)
72. Literacy Skills and Needs of Inmates of Victorian Prisons - Mr M. Brennan (1984)
73. Evaluation of a Volunteer Skills Training Program in a Women's Prison - Dr A.H. Morgan (1984)
74. Design Guidelines to Reduce Security and Vandalism Problems in Medium-Density Housing in Australia - Ms W. Sarkissian (1984)
75. The Dynamics of Truant Behaviour - An Initial Study - Victorian Institute of Secondary Education (1984)
76. The Place of Prosecution in Consumer Protection - Dr J.B. Braithwaite (1984)
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78. Implications of Memory Research for Criminal Law Procedure Dr D.M. Thomson
79. Recognition and Intervention Strategies Among Criminogenic Runaway and Homeless Youth - Associate Professor P.R. Wilson (1984)
80. Victorian Sentencing Law - Mr R.G. Fox and Mr A. Freiberg (1984)
81. Private Policing in Australia - Mr A.S. Rees (1984)
82. Feasibility of the Use of Research in the Design of Programs for the Rehabilitation of Offenders - Mr J. Pasmore and Mr T.R. Dorey (1985)
83. Sentenced to Life: Management of Life Sentence Prisoners - Ms G.L. Gartrell and Ms J. Aitkin (1985)
84. White Collar Crime: the Special Investigation as a Method of Enforcement of Company Law - Use and Utility - Mrs K.J. Adby (1985)

85. Group Therapy for Men Violent Toward Their Mates - Mr D.M. Wehner (1985)
86. Juvenile Aid Bureau: An Evaluation of Police Involvement with Juvenile Offenders and Child Abuse in Queensland - Mr T.M. Lewis (1985)
87. An Econometric Technique for Estimating True Criminal Offence Rates - J.C. Baldry (1985)
88. Alcohol, Accidents, and Criminality in an Aboriginal Community Professor Colin Tatz. Appeared as chapter 'Alcohol, Accidents, and Criminality' in Aborigines and Uranium: Consolidated Report on the Social Impact of Uranium Mining on the Aborigines of the Northern Territory, Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, AGPS, 1984, pp.204-217.
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90. Domestic Violence and the Law (A Study of S.99 of the Justices Act (S.A.)) - Ngairé Naffin (1985)
91. That's 'Gardia' Business - Annie Hoddinott (1985)
92. Detected Young Offenders - Dennis Challinger (1985)
93. An Evaluation of the Living Unit Concept in North American Correctional Planning, Programming and Architecture - Graham Brawn (1985)
94. Drugs, media and Enforcement: A Survey of the Relationship between Drug Abuse & Media Attention to Drugs including a study of the effects of an attempt to elicit information about drug trafficking from the Australian public - J. Hendtlass (1985)
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98. Review of Training Programs at a Youth Training Centre - Robert Arthus Semmens (1986)
99. Aboriginal/Police Relations in the Pilbara: A Study of Perceptions - Lynn Roberts, Rod Chadbourne and Rose Murray (1986)
100. Crime Prevention Roles of Community Training Programs for Unemployed Youth - Keith Windschuttle (1986)
101. The Honorary Probation Officers Service: A Program Evaluation - 1979 - Max Dumais (1986)

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Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Project \_\_\_\_\_

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Is the application clearly expressed?            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Is it of likely practical value?                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Will it make an original contribution?           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Are the aims clearly stated?                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Is the methodology sound?                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Is access to needed data assured?                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Is the budgeting reasonable?                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Are salaries at appropriate levels?              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Do the likely results justify costs?             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Is application supported by Head of Department? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Are referees' assessments favourable?           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

NEGATIVE CRITERIA

- |   | Yes                      | ?                        | No                       |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 12. Is application for overseas travel?                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Is it to fund a conference/seminar?                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. Is it an operational proposal which could be funded by existing agency? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

PERMISSIVE CRITERIA

- |  | Yes                      | ?                        | No                       |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 15. Has applicant completed other research?                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. Is the project to be completed in one year or less?                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. Is the proposal primarily for research into libraries or archives? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. Is it essentially to write a book?                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. Is it for a higher degree?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. Will results be relevant to current, urgent needs?                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |