

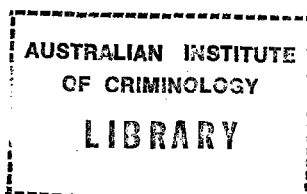
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**CRIME PREVENTION: PLANNING
AND PARTICIPATION IN GEELONG**

by
DENBIGH RICHARDS

Geelong 9 - 13 February 1976

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CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Workshop Proceedings	3
Summary of Recommendations	4
Reports of Groups	10
Group 1 - Planning for Crime Prevention	10
Group 2 - Reducing Crime Opportunities	14
Group 3 - Reducing Crime Motivation	16
Group 4 - Secondary Prevention	21
Conclusions	28
Appendix - List of Participants	29

INTRODUCTION

The workshop 'Crime Prevention: Planning and Participation' was held at the Marcus Oldham Farm Agricultural College, Geelong, Victoria from 9 to 13 February 1976. The workshop had diverse sponsorship as a number of organisations had agreed to support the project after the initial suggestion arose from discussions between the Australian Institute of Criminology and the Social Welfare Department of Victoria. These organisations were

Barwon Regional Crime Prevention and Corrections Council

Barwon Regional Council for Social Development

Geelong Regional Planning Authority

Social Welfare Department

Police Department

Law Department

Australian Crime Prevention Council - Victorian Branch.

The Australian Institute of Criminology was keen to combine its expertise and experience with the local knowledge and concern of people in the Barwon Region in planning for the next few years of growth in the region so as to reduce crime. It was also considered important to provide opportunities for public involvement, as crime is a community problem and its prevention a community responsibility. The format of the workshop, therefore, was to have thirty people participating throughout the week, and then to encourage wider involvement through two public sessions. The participants were nearly all people working and living within the region, but with some outside consultants. All participants are listed in the Appendix.

The first of the public sessions was the official opening by the Minister for Social Welfare, Mr V. Houghton, on the first evening, which was attended by over 100 people. This followed a civic reception for the Minister and all participants. The meeting was addressed by Mr W. Clifford, Director of the Institute, who spoke on the theme of the workshop. He pointed out that the workshop was aiming to raise awareness of all people involved in making decisions about the future of the region so that a better society was planned for and created, and crime reduced as a by-product of this. This was an extremely complex and difficult task, but the workshop represented an exciting step forward in this type of planning for crime prevention in Australia.

The second public session was on the last afternoon when nearly 200

WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

The workshop began with a welcome by Mr W. Clifford, Director of the Institute, and there were then four speakers who presented background papers as an introduction to the deliberations of the workshop groups. The first of these was by Inspector J. Killeen, of the Geelong Police, who commented on the structure of the police force, the areas they covered, the way in which police record information and the codings they used. Inspector Killeen suggested some key factors which could explain the pattern of crime in the Barwon Region. Specific local features were identified such as the proximity to Melbourne and the influx of holiday-makers, the high and growing unemployment and the increased use of drugs. He also pointed out the general apathy toward crime prevention and the changing values in relation to traditional authorities.

A demographic breakdown and description of the region was then presented by Mr Peter Hocking, a geographer with the Geelong Regional Planning Authority. This highlighted such factors as a low and declining growth and job formation rate, high unemployment particularly for juniors and females, and the possibility of increased social tensions because of a marked social stratification in the area. It was therefore considered vital that the Planning Authority plan for more job opportunities and a better range of employment; balanced growth throughout the whole region; reduced stratification; and equal opportunities for existing population and residents of new areas.

Mr Graeme Angus, Executive Director of the Barwon Regional Council for Social Development, presented a challenging paper in which he argued that crime prevention will only be effective when it goes beyond the provision of more services and programs, and seeks to deal with the core of the problem which is in the family and social structure and attitudes. In what served as a thought-provoking background to the remainder of the workshop's deliberations he looked for the growth of a concept of *civitas* - the honouring of the city of which one is a member.

In the final session of background presentation, Mr David Biles, Assistant Director (Research) at the Australian Institute of Criminology spoke about the report *Crime in the Geelong Region*, which he and Inspector Alex Copeland had compiled for the workshop from data collected from police records of reported crimes in the region. Although based on a minimal amount of data, the report demonstrated the value of having a statistical background on which to base discussion of crime prevention needs. The report highlighted certain geographical areas which warranted special attention, but overall it demonstrated that a sound information base is needed for planning and that this requires that all relevant statistics

be kept in a more standardised and usable way than they are at present.

After this initial background presentation four workshop groups then met for the rest of the week. Their reports are presented in the next section and the titles suggest the areas on which they focussed their discussion. Group One's report is more detailed as this group discussed Planning for Crime Prevention and therefore had to take an overall view of the many factors which should be taken into account when future decisions are made about the region's growth and development.

During the week Group Two, which discussed Reducing Crime Opportunities, visited a large retail store to discuss their subject with security staff and to observe security measures. Group Three, considering crime motivation, visited two local schools and an adolescent recreation and counselling agency, in each place sitting down with a group of adolescents and getting first hand impressions and comments on how the problems of crime and its prevention are viewed.

A plenary session on the Friday morning provided an opportunity for each group to present its recommendations to the whole workshop, and some amendments were made to the reports. They have been further edited for this report, mainly to consolidate recommendations where some overlap occurred.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Police

- (a) Police to be relieved of extraneous duties such as licence testing, traffic control - including speed traps, manning Motor Registration Branch, and execution of warrants of civil distress.
- (b) Two operational Police Headquarters to be established, North and South of the Barwon.
- (c) Decentralised precincts of the CID to be established.
- (d) Suburban police stations to be restored.
- (e) More effective liaison between police and security services to be established.
- (f) Police to give feedback to all complainants on results of investigations.
- (g) Police to be given more opportunities to explain their methods of operation and reasons for these.
- (h) Police should patrol known trouble spots more frequently to prevent trouble where possible.
- (i) Possibilities of voluntary aid to police (as in other parts of the world) to be explored.

Media

- (a) Media to be encouraged to undertake campaigns against

specific offences such as shop stealing and vandalism.

- (b) Encourage close liaison with Barwon Regional Crime Prevention and Corrections Council to present material on costs and effects of crime and also ideas on prevention.
- (c) Dangers of such things as accepting lifts from strangers, could be highlighted.
- (d) Media should publicise crime in such a way that adherence to and understanding of the law is promoted.

Schools

- (a) Encouragement of provision of professional services (psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, counsellors) to work within the schools.
- (b) Provision of more opportunities for students to be made aware of their community through visits to community agencies, including penal institutions.
- (c) School administrators to continue the procedure of monitoring crime within their own schools.
- (d) Introduction of migrant teachers into Geelong schools to be accelerated, avoiding creating stigmatised services but offering assistance with students' communication problems.
- (e) Students to receive instruction on
 - (i) Role of police
 - (ii) Function of lawyers
 - (iii) The court system
 - (iv) Citizens' rights and obligations under the law.
- (f) Schools to open up their doors to the community and be more in step with the values and aspirations of the community which they serve.
- (g) Social science content in teacher training to be increased.
- (h) Community Development Officers in areas with 'at risk' pupils to be utilised to develop programs to meet social needs.
- (i) Schools to provide sex education beginning at an appropriate level from the first years of schooling.
- (j) Students to be taught fundamentals of human relationships and basic psychology.

Recreation

- (a) Municipally based recreation officers should be appointed to assess the interests of adolescents in their areas and, with the help of local volunteers and the local youth, to arrange and conduct activities sessions. Existing community facilities should be used wherever possible.
- (b) Barwon Regional Council for Social Development and the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation should seek the aid

of the local municipal councils and the Regional Director of Education to enlist their interest and financial support to plan for the greater use out of ordinary hours of school grounds and swimming pools, parks and gardens, and the organisation of 'outward-bound' type activity.

- (c) Barwon Regional Council for Social Development to convene a meeting of all agencies concerned with youth services to develop the concept of street workers as a pilot project and that appropriate sources of funding be investigated.

Community Services

- (a) Urgent provision of a short-term accommodation unit particularly for young people.
- (b) Community to be encouraged to offer private board particularly for young people. Support to be given to people offering private board.
- (c) Establishment and support of neighbourhood groups to act as supportive groups for people 'at risk' in the community.
- (d) Increase in availability of judiciary to be maintained until adequate resources are available within the region.
- (e) Government subsidised buses could be provided during holiday periods and weekends for transportation to beach resorts to reduce the incidence of hitch hiking and its attendant problems.
- (f) Improved local transport services to be developed to enable persons to move about the region with less enforced restriction.
- (g) Provision of facilities where socially isolated women can turn for friendship and mutual problem solving.
- (h) Provision of a 24 hour Migrant Information Service providing support and referral services through interpreters.
- (i) Social Welfare Department to be available on a five day per week basis in the Corio area.

Community Involvement and Community Education

- (a) Barwon Region Crime Prevention and Corrections Council to coordinate a campaign involving community groups (for example service clubs and churches) in distributing crime prevention pamphlets, posters, etc.
- (b) Insurance and security companies should be requested to sponsor or promote schemes to educate the public on crime prevention devices and to encourage their use.
- (c) Insurance companies should consider allowing rebates to householders installing approved security devices. It was noted that 70 per cent of security devices are installed after theft has occurred and it was recommended that new homes

should include better security devices as standard fittings.

- (d) Commerce and industry management should be encouraged to support crime prevention. Specifically such programs should focus on the problems of boredom at work and dishonesty within industry and commerce and should include the distribution of crime prevention material.
- (e) Management should be encouraged to utilise visible surveillance to a greater extent, for example television cameras, uniformed security officers, mirrors, etc., to reduce shop stealing.
- (f) Representatives of commerce and industry management and unions should be invited to a seminar at which they can together consider such things as crime prevention methods crime statistics and crime trends.
- (g) Further progress towards controlling crime could be made if closer screening of personnel were carried out. In many organisations little or no check is made as to character or the verification of references, with the result that plausible criminals are often appointed to positions of trust.
- (h) Carelessness among car owners to be countered by a campaign using materials such as the Victorian Police Crime Prevention Squad brochure 'Protect Your Car'.
- (i) Robbery with violence could be reduced if people were less naive in displaying valuables in public.
- (j) The general public including the business sector should be made aware of reporting all crime no matter how trivial it may appear to them otherwise we have a false view of crime trends.
- (k) 'Darkness is a friend of the criminal and planned security lighting acts as a great deterrent in many situations.' Security lighting of alleys and laneways, back streets and commercial buildings is of prime consideration. Recessed doorways should be well-lit and as far as possible screened off.
- (l) Local community and local police to reassess their attitudes to help promote a better relationship.
- (m) Parents should be vigilant and actively interested in their children's activities.
- (n) Barwon Region Crime Prevention and Corrections Council to press for legislation to change the conditions of employment in relevant government bodies and in conjunction with the trades hall and employers' organisations to conduct an education program, for employers to show that they are assisting in crime prevention by employing ex-offenders.
- (o) Barwon Region Crime Prevention and Corrections Council to examine closely the possibility of ensuring that a prisoner's criminal record not be used in such a way as to

hinder him if he has stayed out of trouble for a number of years.

Correctional and After Care Facilities

- (a) Development of the Barwon Attendance Centre and its use by the local courts is strongly encouraged.
- (b) Barwon Region Crime Prevention and Corrections Council to assess the possible benefit to Victoria of the Juvenile Aid Panel System in South Australia.
- (c) Social Welfare Department to create two Welfare Officer positions within the Geelong Prison to provide a welfare service to prisoners and their families.
- (d) Barwon Region Crime Prevention and Corrections Council to pursue the possibility of a work release scheme being introduced in Geelong.
- (e) Juvenile Remand Centre to be established in Barwon Region.
- (f) Barwon Region Crime Prevention and Corrections Council to approach the Victorian After Care and Rehabilitation Organisation on the possibility of establishing a branch of VACRO in Geelong.
- (g) Geelong Community Adolescent and Family Centre to discuss with Social Welfare Department possibility of establishing a Youth Attendance Centre.

Unemployment

Support was expressed for the establishment of a regional committee to look at the structural problems which are severely restricting employment opportunities within the region. It was also felt that there should be more studies undertaken on the composition of the unemployed group. It is essential that additional employment opportunities, particularly non-industrial employment, be created.

Alcohol

- (a) Random breath tests for drivers should be instituted immediately.
- (b) Assessment and treatment services for problem drinkers should be developed in the region by the Barwon Regional Association for Alcohol and Drug Dependence.
- (c) Stronger action by authorities against liquor outlets which sell liquor to under-age customers.

Regionalism

Regionalism to be encouraged and developed through

- (a) Continual liaison and negotiation between the State Government and regional bodies.

- (b) Development of formal and informal community groups as part of development of local level planning processes.
- (c) Continued use of Community Development Officers to encourage local services.

Crime Statistics, Research and Information

- (a) Barwon Region Crime Prevention and Corrections Council to make more extended and intensive studies of the crime situation in the region.
- (b) Adjustment to present methods of crime statistics collection so that the information gathered is more immediately usable and more useful.
- (c) Crime index to include
 - (i) Dangerous driving
 - (ii) Careless driving
 - (iii) Driving with an excess of 0.05 per cent
- (d) Detailed study of costs of crime in Geelong to be instituted.
- (e) Support study of Barwon Regional Association for Alcohol and Drug Dependence into patterns of alcohol and drug use within the region.

Social Indicators

Social indicators such as public safety and freedom of movement should be developed and used by the Geelong Regional Planning Authority, The Barwon Regional Council for Social Development and the Barwon Regional Crime Prevention and Corrections Council, in assessing the impact of developments within the region and planning for new or existing areas.

REPORTS OF GROUPS

GROUP 1 PLANNING FOR CRIME PREVENTION

1. Regionalism

Because the concept of regionalism is so crucial to planning for crime prevention in the Barwon Region, due to the importance of such components as: community involvement in the assessment of need, the allocation and utilisation of resources, the responsibilities of coordination and integration - all of which must be seen as open to regional perspectives and negotiation - it is recommended that this concept, and its implementation be encouraged and further developed through

- (a) Continual liaison and negotiation between the State Government and the region.
- (b) The encouragement and development of local level planning processes, involving the work of community groups of an informal and formal nature.
- (c) The establishment and support, together with the encouragement of quality improvement, of neighbourhood groups which can act as supportive groups for people 'at risk' in the community.
- (d) The continued development and use of Community Development Officers whose task has been the encouragement of local level planning, and the development of localised services.

2. Crime Statistics

- (a) It is recommended that the index of major crimes should be extended to include drink-driving offences. In a total statistical review of crime, the following categories must be included
 - (i) Dangerous driving
 - (ii) Careless driving
 - (iii) Driving with an excess of 0.05 per cent
- (b) That the Barwon Regional Crime Prevention and Corrections Council make use of the more meaningfully gathered crime statistics in ways which will require experimentation, research, and an ongoing review of crime prevention planning within the region.

- (c) That support be given to the study being conducted by the Barwon Regional Association for Alcohol and Drug Dependence into the patterns of alcohol and drug use within the region.

3. Alcohol

Because alcohol is a major factor in crime, it is recommended that

- (a) Random breath tests for drivers be instituted immediately.
- (b) Assessment and treatment services for problem drinkers be developed within the region by the Barwon Regional Association for Alcohol and Drug Dependence.

4. Unemployment

The workshop did not assume a direct relationship between unemployment and crime, however it was agreed that employment was related to the quality of life which affected behaviour. Concern was expressed at the unemployment rate in the region which is nearly twice the national average. Support was expressed for the establishment of a regional committee to look at the structural problems which are severely restricting employment opportunities within the region. It was also felt that there should be more studies undertaken on the composition of the unemployed group.

5. Social Costs

The group found that in many cases in past planning, benefits to the individual entrepreneur had social costs that were hidden, but nonetheless real, and whilst not usually counted, these social costs do outweigh that individual benefit.

This is especially evident in those suburban areas where cultural and recreational facilities are not provided, and where young people are induced to move into the central business district and create situations from which crime does develop.

This is amply illustrated by the report *Crime in the Geelong Region*, presented at the beginning of this workshop.

6. Social Indicators

In obtaining a practical perspective of broad objectives, the group felt that Geelong should have its own social indicators, not merely health, education and welfare, but indicators such as public safety and freedom of movement, especially in the central areas and at night.

Such indicators should be developed and used by the Geelong Regional Planning Authority, Barwon Regional Council for Social Development, and the Geelong Regional Crime Prevention and Corrections Council in assessing the impact of developments in the region and planning for new or existing areas.

7. Localisation of Police Services

In order to encourage police professionalism within the region and to develop higher standards of police involvement within the community, it is recommended that

- (a) Two operational headquarters be established north and south of the Barwon (for example, at Corio and Waurin Ponds).
- (b) In order to provide an effective police presence at a local level, thus enabling greater positive interaction between police and citizens, decentralised precincts of the CID be established and the restoration of the suburban police station be encouraged.

It is believed that the Barwon Region is an ideal place to take innovative measures in the allocation and utilisation of police resources, and the present ratio of 1:885 police per head of population could be allocated more effectively to achieve a better relationship between the police force and the community.

- (c) That a streamlining of the legislation occur in order to remove what are regarded as non-specific police duties, for example, manning the Motor Registration Branch; licence testing; traffic control - including speed traps and all non-criminal traffic offences; and the execution of warrants of civil distress.

This removal of non-specific, extraneous tasks, will release a substantial number of police to carry out those tasks regarded as more central to police work, and as a means of placing police within communities, both of which will lead to an improvement in police conditions, in their community image, and a greater utilisation of time.

- (d) It is recommended that a more effective liaison should be built up between police and security services.
- (e) The workshop noted that volunteers to advise and guide young people (as in other parts of the world) and the possibility of such voluntary aid in Geelong is to be explored. The size of Geelong and the local knowledge of the people made such aid to the police a distinct possibility and would advance an improvement in police/community relations.

8. The Media

It is recognised that the vital work carried out by the media is a significant contribution to the improvement of public education.

Criticism has been levelled at the media in that they tend to cover only what is regarded as newsworthy, irrespective of the social consequences of reporting.

It is strongly believed, however, that the media could be deeply involved in planning for crime prevention in the future, without

interfering with their freedom to make news available to the public.

Taking as an example, the *Geelong Advertiser* involvement in the 'Safety City' campaign in Geelong, it is believed that representatives of the media could cooperate closely with the Barwon Regional Crime Prevention and Corrections Council. This would ensure the adequate reporting of crime would continue, but that the deeper and longer term damage of crime would be known, particularly in terms of its social and economic costs.

The media could achieve this objective through the presentation of analytical and explanatory segments on the real significance of crime in the Barwon Region, together with preventive measures arising from the information gained in an involvement with the above named Council.

9. Crime and Schools

The isolation of the school and the community - a process which often occurs both ways, for example, the lack of community access and participation, and the fact that schools rarely follow up evidence of criminal tendencies, neither do they refer adequately to community agencies - leads to the following recommendations

- (a) The encouragement of the provision of professional services (psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, counsellors) together with other members of the community, to work within the schools, with both problem children and their families.
- (b) To encourage the provision of opportunities for school children to be made more aware of their community through visits to community agencies, including penal institutions.
- (c) That school administrators be encouraged to continue the procedure of monitoring crime within their own schools, and that there not be a development of patterns in use in other countries where police are given the responsibility of patrol and surveillance within school hours.

10. Costs of Crime

That a study be carried out in Geelong which attempts to establish the social and economic costs of crime and that this study take place over a period of five years.

11. The Courts

Although gratified that a 20 per cent increase over two years has occurred in the availability of the judiciary in Victoria, due to government action, it is recommended that this increase be maintained until adequate resources are available in the region.

GROUP 2

REDUCING CRIME OPPORTUNITIES

This workshop considers that crime prevention is the concern of every citizen. As we grow, it seems inevitable that the Barwon Region will see a rise in the incidence of crime, like that experienced overseas. If we are to delay this development, we must convince everyone in the community that they can play a vital role in the prevention of crime. The attitude of the community toward public participation in crime control will be vital in determining the incidence of crime in the future.

1. The Barwon Regional Crime Prevention and Correction Council should take responsibility for coordinating a general community education campaign encouraging such groups as service groups and churches to distribute crime prevention literature. This campaign should encourage a general sense of belonging to the total community as it was considered this would be effective in reducing the general level of crime.
2. Insurance and security companies should be requested to sponsor or promote schemes to educate the public on crime prevention devices, their availability and to encourage their continued use.
3. Insurance companies should consider allowing rebates to householders installing approved security devices. It was noted that 70 per cent of security devices are installed after theft has occurred and it was recommended that new homes should include better security devices as standard fittings.
4. Commerce and industry management should be encouraged to support crime prevention. Specifically such programs should focus on the problems of boredom at work and dishonesty within industry and commerce and should include the distribution of crime prevention material.
5. Management should be encouraged to utilise visible surveillance to a greater extent, for example, television cameras, uniformed security officers, mirrors, etc., to reduce shop stealing.
6. Representatives of commerce and industry management and unions should be invited to a seminar at which they can together consider such things as crime prevention methods, crime statistics and crime trends.
7. Further progress towards controlling crime could be made if closer screening of personnel were carried out. In many organisations little or no check is made as to character or in the verification of references with the result that plausible criminals are often appointed to positions of trust.

8. Carelessness among car owners is too prevalent. During the seminar an investigation of a car park revealed that 47 per cent were locked, 53 per cent unlocked and of these 13 per cent had keys left in the ignition.

Such carelessness can be countered by a campaign using material such as the Victorian Police Crime Prevention Squad brochure 'Protect Your Car'.

9. The incidence of assaults on females in particular would be reduced by a campaign highlighting dangers of accepting lifts from strangers, lonely streets, late hours, etc.

10. Government subsidised buses could be provided during the holiday periods and weekends for transportation to beach resorts for the youth of the region. This could reduce the incidence of hitch hiking and attendant problems.

11. Robbery with violence could be reduced if people were less naive in displaying valuables in public.

12. In relation to the impact of thefts on people, it was felt that the media's interviews of victims should highlight the emotional stress suffered by them rather than just concentrating on the material loss. Such approach may more effectively bring home to the public the need for protective devices.

13. The general public, including the business sector, should be made aware of reporting all crime no matter how trivial it may appear to them. Otherwise we have a false view of crime trends.

14. Complainants should be given feedback by police as to the result of enquiries made pertaining to a particular offence. Failure to do so leads to public apathy.

15. 'Darkness is a friend of the criminal and planned security lighting acts as a great deterrent in many situations.' Security lighting of alleys and laneways, back streets and commercial buildings is of prime consideration. Recessed doorways should be well-lit and as far as possible screened off.

GROUP 3

REDUCING CRIME MOTIVATION

In order to tackle this topic it is necessary to identify those areas where reduction of crime motivation is possible. For this reason it is useful to consider Geelong's major crimes and to try and categorise the common motivations for their occurrence.

Homicide

Homicide has been shown to be peculiar to the extent that its occurrence is occasioned by circumstances and motives unique to each offence and therefore no generalisations are possible. For this reason it is inappropriate to concentrate attention on this offence, added to which it does not constitute a grave problem in the Geelong region.

Assaults

Assaults can be motivated by an inability to communicate verbally with others, a desire to prove oneself to others, a set against authority or an attempt to punish oneself. These reasons may not be exhaustive but most assaults appear to occur with the catalyst of alcohol.

In Geelong, assaults are a problem involving the young and unskilled. There are specific locations in the city where fights occur with some regularity.

Robberies

Robberies are increasing in Geelong but are primarily focussed on pharmacies or doctors' surgeries, for the acquisition of drugs. The offenders' motivation in these cases is obviously based on an addiction problem.

Sex offences

Sex offences in the region appear to primarily constitute indecent exposure and indecent assaults on females. The offenders usually have psychological problems.

Burglaries

Burglaries are certainly a problem and most offenders detected are youthful. This does not mean that most offenders are youthful. There appear to be two participatory groups motivated by different reasons. The first group are young persons engaging in adolescent adventure. The

second comprises career burglars out to make personal gain.

Thefts

Thefts constitute the greatest problem: within this group there are three frequently occurring theft-types that indicate the difficulty in isolating motive. Bicycle stealing appears a youthful offence occasioned by a basic desire to gain 'wheels' for mobility. Stealing from motor cars is most frequently undertaken for personal gain. Shopstealing is not easily explainable. Adolescents may be either adventurers, professionally oriented or sometimes steal to satisfy a particular need. Adults may be reacting under some mental or nervous strain, or out for personal gain.

Motor vehicle theft

Motor vehicle theft appears primarily a juvenile problem although organised and professional adult offenders are known to exist. Juveniles may again be adventurers, or 'professionals' after easy mobility.

False pretence type offences

False pretence type offences are generally motivated by a desire for easy money, and are predominately committed by adults. In Geelong, their occurrence is fairly slight. As can be seen from the above, discussion of all motivation is beyond the scope of this paper. However, as property offences and assaults constitute the most frequently occurring offences in Geelong, and because most of the detected offenders are young, attention will be focussed in this regard.

The following discussion will then cover many factors that relate to the development of young Geelong people and thus effect their chances of engaging in the adolescent adventure or commitment to an illegal lifestyle. It is suggested that progression from the former to the latter may occur unless some action takes place which impresses upon youth the unacceptability to Geelong citizens of such acts. The following comments are based in some part on discussions conducted with various Geelong youths during the course of the workshop.

Geelong police are generally viewed in a bad light by local youth. Instances of harrassment by police, and insentive remarks by them, seem responsible for much of this bad feeling.

Both local police and the local community need to reasses their attitudes to help promote a better relationship. This should commence with local police being provided with an opportunity to talk to local citizens explaining their law enforcement practices and the reasons for such action on their part.

Moreover police visibility is essential. Potential trouble is often avoided by the belief that police will be around.

Known trouble spots in Geelong at weekends should be defused by police patrols before the call for assistance arises.

The prevalence of stealing among young people appears in most part to be a game or an adventure. However, parents' own behaviour by way of pilfering from work is scarcely conducive to discouraging their children from stealing. Additionally parents may not require their children to explain the presence of stolen goods in their possession. This implied condoning of their children's activities points out the necessity for parents to be not only vigilant but actively interested in their children's activities.

The importance of the family in this regard cannot be overstated, and is not restricted to the Geelong situation. However community education of parental responsibility is best encouraged within the local community.

Such parental interest should also detect under-age drinking, which can be the forerunner of offences, especially assaults. Subsequent pressure from parents directed against publicans, whose economic motives far outweigh their community spirit, might help alleviate the problem. The ease with which Geelong's adolescents can apparently buy drinks in licenced premises, and even buy goods from the bottle departments indicates a problem.

More stringent action must be taken by the authorities against such lax liquor outlets, because of the proven relationship between alcohol and certain crimes.

The local mass media's educative role should be harnessed to promote adherence to, and understanding of, the law. Geelong youth appear to have little idea of their rights and responsibilities under the law, and in fact identify the police alone with law enforcement. The local press and radio's responsibility in this regard should be emphasised. The lack of a local media representative as an active participant at this conference reflects the lack of appreciation of this educative role on the media's part.

Moreover, the media's encouragement of acquisitiveness and materialism through extensive advertising, may explain some juvenile theft. Some balance could be achieved by some percentage of available advertising time being used for the broadcasting of crime prevention material.

The local media should be encouraged (or required) to undertake campaigns against specific offences like shoplifting or vandalism.

The abnormally high rate of unemployment of young people in Geelong is a particular problem. The enforced idleness of unemployment creates problems in that the excessive amounts of leisure time, and the various financial pressures on such persons could motivate them to commit offences. For this reason it is essential that additional employment opportunities be created in Geelong. Moreover there is a definite need for non-industrial employment opportunities which must be met.

The high theft rate of vehicles in the Geelong region is a bad local problem. Much of it can be explained by youths wishing to get from one part of the region to another. It is essential that improved local transport services be developed to enable persons to move about the region with less enforced restriction.

While this by itself will not solve the vehicle theft problem it would surely lessen it.

There are many adolescents whose difficulty in communicating with others can occasion their offending. The availability of some trusted person in whom the youth can confide would understandably be of value.

The placement of a sympathetic and approachable counsellor-confidante in all secondary schools is a high priority in the region. Such a person should be quite independent of the school hierarchy and not religiously oriented as today's youth generally have little confidence or interest in the established church and some may even find it threatening.

Certain identifiable areas of the region are particularly 'at risk'. Within those areas many mothers in particular are frustrated and isolated - exhibiting their discontent in their child-rearing or their own anti-social acts.

This situation in turn can cause their children to fulfil their parents' description that they are 'bad'.

Provision of a facility where such women can turn for friendship, mutual problem solving and confiding would improve the well being of the family and consequently the whole of the area, and is therefore a most important priority. Additionally within these areas are many residents who are migrants from non-English-speaking countries. The isolation suffered by such persons can be severe and the resulting cultural difficulties that arise with their adolescent children can be substantial. The comparatively high number of Geelong offenders who are born foreign, further indicates the extent of this problem.

For this reason a 24 hour Migrant Information Service providing support and referral services through native speakers should be established.

The process of introducing migrant teachers into Geelong schools should be accelerated. In no way should this be seen as setting up a separate and potentially stigmatised service to migrants but should aim at assisting these students who have communication problems.

Victoria's official crime statistics show that most detected offenders are previously known to the police and many such offenders have served terms of imprisonment. The Geelong Prison releases local offenders back into the community and they often have great difficulty in re-establishing themselves within the community. Much of this difficulty arises because during his prison term the offender may have adopted a criminal ethic to survive in that unnatural environment. This adopted ethic, his strained financial situation and his rejection by the community can conspire to cause the offender to reoffend.

The development of the Geelong Attendance Centre will help reduce the contamination effect of the inmate culture, but its use by the local courts must be strongly encouraged and further alternatives must be developed.

These offenders who will still be released from Geelong Prison seem particularly hard pressed to find temporary accommodation. Local young offenders, or State Wards whose release from youth training centres depends on their having accommodation to go to, are perhaps in an even worse position. Such offenders cannot return to their family home in many cases because of the conflict there which will negate any improvement which might have been effected during their detainment. Additionally young probationers whose home circumstances are undesirable may also be in need of supportive short-term accommodation, as may be young people who have left home because of some family conflict.

It is highly necessary that a short-term accommodation centre be established as a matter of urgency to cater for the groups outlined above. The Barwon Regional Council for Social Development should take responsibility for coordinating action to ensure the earliest possible establishment of such a facility. Further, the Geelong community should be made aware of the shortage of accommodation instanced above and should be encouraged to provide private board particularly for young people.

To assist the success of such private board schemes, most parents should be graduates of a training course geared to help them handle the likely problems they might face.

The Youth Say Project established that traditional youth clubs and societies have failed and a different approach to the problems of recreation facilities for young people is needed. Municipally based recreation officers should be appointed to establish the interests of adolescents in their areas and with the help of local volunteers and the local youth arrange and conduct youth activity sessions. Coordination of these sessions, which would be held in existing community facilities like school and church halls, would be necessary to ensure that facilities were not unnecessarily duplicated within the region.

The foregoing recommendations, if effected, should help reduce the likelihood of young people being motivated to commit offences. However, such moves are suggested for the present situation. Hopefully the local community's attitudes to crime will change over time, and their increasing involvement in the field will itself bring an improvement to the situation.

GROUP 4

SECONDARY PREVENTION

1. The Group felt strongly that not enough effort is currently directed toward providing modern children with opportunities to do what all children need and want to do. Cities are restricted in places for children to play - parks, school grounds and swimming pools. Open bush areas are receding rapidly and becoming beyond the reach of many city children, and streets, once a favourite playing area, are now rendered unsafe because of traffic density.

The Regional Council for Social Development and the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation should seek the cooperation (including financial assistance) of the local Municipal Councils and the Regional Director of Education to enlist their interest and financial aid to plan for the greater use out of ordinary hours of school grounds and swimming pools, parks and gardens, and the organising of 'outward bound' types of activity.

Some sporting and play equipment would be required, some improvised, some manufactured and not necessarily expensive. The question of the necessary minimum adult supervision of each local area could be the subject of either financial provision or arrangements with local youth work agencies, service clubs, and available parents for rostered service. It is important that the schemes be locally inspired responsibilities, with local planning effort and pooling of ideas. The children themselves should also take part in the planning.

Latch-key children and children in trouble particularly need this kind of service or opportunities for activity. The ideas for activities are limitless, and should include facilities for reading, hobby assistance and instruction, music and singing, and so on. The facilities naturally should be available for all children, including the physically and mentally disabled, to avoid stigmatisation of any kind.

2. Governments are the largest employers of people in Australia, yet the majority of these will not employ people with any form of criminal record.

A large employer of labour with limited skills and education, yet providing a variety of job interest, is the Victorian Railways. They shut their doors to many prospective employees because these people have a criminal record. One area of secondary prevention that really works is having the ex-offender gainfully employed in a vocation commensurate with his liking and his ability.

An education program for employers to show that they are assisting in crime prevention by employing ex-offenders would be valuable, but government bodies should take the lead in this area. The Crime Prevention Council should press for legislation to change the conditions of employment in the relevant government bodies, and this same Council, in conjunction with the Trades Hall and employers' organisations could conduct the education program.

3. The early detection of the child or adolescent offender requires that they be not simply labelled as 'problems' to be added to the mounting statistics, but that a process of early intervention take place to correct the imbalance.

Frequently the young offender can be found to have psychological and behavioural disorders as a result of inadequate experiences in the family and other places which dictate later anti-social behaviour and deviant behavioural patterns.

Tackling the problem early is vital and action should be taken to remedy the situation in families and elsewhere.

4. It is recommended that the Crime Prevention and Corrections Council examine closely the possibility of ensuring that a person's criminal record not be used in such a way as to hinder him if he has stayed out of trouble for a number of years.

5. It is recommended that the Crime Prevention Council look into the Juvenile Aid Panel System in South Australia, to see if the system could be of benefit in Victoria.

6. Every citizen should be aware of the law, and what it offers. Past investigations have shown a lack of knowledge, in students about to leave secondary school, of the law and its various applications. Instruction in the functions of the legal profession should be made more readily available and understandable, so that the image of the television courtroom lawyer can be dispelled and barristers and solicitors can be seen in their true light. Students prior to leaving secondary schools are on the verge of adulthood, about to go into the labour markets and higher education. It is therefore most practical for them to seek and obtain enlightenment at this stage as to their rights and obligations under the law.

In discussing the law with students, emphasis should be placed on the probability of them becoming drivers of motor vehicles in the near future and that relevant laws and regulations provide certain onuses on those who drive motor vehicles on our roads. Increased publicity has of late been rendered to the large numbers of drink-drivers who have been detected. This very dangerous situation should be highlighted to the future drivers.

It is therefore recommended that students before leaving school receive instruction in law on

- (a) The role of police
 - (b) The functions of lawyers
 - (c) The court system
 - (d) The citizen's rights and obligations under the law
- and instruction in such specific issues as
- (a) The laws relating to automobiles, for example -
drink-driving, culpable driving
 - (b) Shop stealing
 - (c) Vandalism
 - (d) Rape and other sexual offences
 - (e) Apprenticeships
 - (f) Hire purchase
 - (g) Rent.

7. The numbers of non-joiners of existing clubs, organisations and structured activities has increased over the past few years.

The incidence of youths gathering with their peer group on street corners, around shopping complexes, pool halls, amusement centres and the like is increasing.

The number of young people leaving school as soon as they are able, the low achievement level of many school leavers, poor home environment, the learning difficulties experienced by many people - emphasised by the increasing numbers of unemployed young people - result in a greater incidence of these groups and also emphasise the need for assistance to be made available to them.

It is therefore recommended that the Barwon Regional Council for Social Development convene a meeting of all agencies concerned with youth services, to develop the concept of street workers as a pilot project, and that appropriate sources of funding be investigated.

The State Government Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation has made available a grant for each of three years towards the salary of a detached worker. Municipal Council contribution or Australian Assistance Plan funding may supply the remainder required for operating costs.

It is emphasised that a support service would be required for this worker and it is stressed that he/she form an extension of an existing youth work agency - able to derive support and assistance from that agency.

A point raised within the group was the lack of welfare staff in the Geelong Training Prison.

The stated advantages of having such staff within the prison were seen to be

(a) Contact with prisoners and their families.

Such contact would assist prisoners whose families reside in the Barwon Region by providing a sounding-board whereby prisoners could release pent-up emotions and receive help with problems. It would also provide a support service to the families of the prisoners.

(b) Work-release and Parole Board reports.

With the likelihood of prior or ongoing contact with prisoners and their families, it was felt that such reports as required by the Parole Board and Prisons Division could best be compiled by these staff.

It was recommended that the Social Welfare Department create two Welfare Officer positions within the Geelong Training Prison to implement the above services.

9. Statistics raised in D. Biles' and A. Copeland's paper *Crime in the Geelong Region* point out that the Norlane area is the home of the highest number of offenders living in the Geelong Region, and that the area houses the largest number of regional offenders between the ages of 10 years and 24 years.

It is significant that this area is largely made up of Housing Commission homes, and that this moving population area has few welfare personnel working in it.

Existing personnel are

Two welfare staff employed by the Corio Shire

The Barwon Regional Centre has welfare staff available to the public at a shared sub-office within the Corio shopping village complex. However, at present this service is only available half a day per week.

Other Geelong welfare agencies such as the Social Security Department and Catholic Family Welfare Bureau serve specific clients in the area.

The need was expressed for the Social Welfare Department to be available on a five day per week basis in the area, the reasons being

- (a) Closer liaison between the police and the Social Welfare Department;
- (b) Public transport services are poor and it is difficult for clients to attend at the city office.

10. The education system, as a tool for crime prevention, came up repeatedly throughout discussions. Schools and family units are the two major socialising bodies in which the formative years are spent.

If schools are to be effective in this area they must open their doors to the community, and be more in step with the values and aspirations of the community which they serve.

A significant number of young offenders lack social skills, self-confidence and ability to develop meaningful relationships. In the main they have had few if any academic or personal successes while at school.

Schools must be supportive to children and families and aim at developing the child as a whole.

School programs which neglect to account for the lifestyle of the families from which their pupils come set up conditions of stress and alienation in both the children and the families.

Attitudes of teachers toward families of low socio-economic areas are often negative and they are passed on to children.

Teachers, generally of middle-class background, must be aware that the values of children and families of lower socio-economic background are at variance with their own. What is often treated as problematic behaviour by the education system is considered desirable in the home situation.

11. Schools have the opportunity to help families to become strong units, and to encourage positive participation by people relatively devoid of social skills. The preventative role cannot be taken where the attitudes presented at school are at odds with the home environment. Non-participation of parents in many lower socio-economic areas is criticised too often by teachers who have given little thought to the difficulties working-class and migrant parents have in participating in what is a fairly middle-class institution, where parent-teacher meetings are run on fairly formal, quite alien lines.

It is recommended to the Regional Director of Education that

- (a) The social science content in teacher training be increased.
- (b) Steps must be taken for schools to provide sex education beginning at an appropriate level from the first years of schooling.
- (c) Students be taught the fundamentals of human relationships and elementary developmental psychology.
- (d) Community Development Officers in areas with schools which have 'at risk' pupils should be utilised to develop, in conjunction with parents, pupils, teachers, school committees and so on, an analysis of the social needs of the school and pupils, and a program to meet those needs and to explore the possible sources of funding.

Programs for consideration will include the possibility of employing

- (a) School counsellors at the secondary level. The role of the counsellors will include
 - (i) Being available to students for assistance with personal problems.

- (ii) Assistance to young people with information regarding available services within the community, and to put them in touch with the services they wish to consult.
- (iii) Assistance in setting up self-help programs of additional reading groups for those experiencing difficulty in reaching class standard.
- (iv) Regular work on an area committee with others involved in social welfare fields, for example, police, parole officers, clergy, youth and recreational agency personnel.
- (v) Assistance to parents in understanding their child's particular needs.
- (b) Special staff in schools in areas producing a significant number of youth offenders, to work with staff, pupils and families to encourage attitudinal change.

The role would be developmental rather than remedial, for example, not pinpointing the pupil as having problems, but assisting the school to recognise a joint short-coming and to work with all who have an interest to develop more appropriate courses, parent participation, and teacher awareness of the social needs of pupils it has responsibility for.

12. Any complete etiology of crime would not fail to recognise the prison's contribution to the crime rate.

Gresham, Sykes and others have contended that prisons, as they are presently structured, contribute heavily to the crime rate. The effect of prison culture must be seen as an all-pervading phenomena from which an inmate has no real retreat. Survival in prison, (perhaps any total institution according to Goffman), is dependent on the prisoner internalising the goals and norms of the dominant culture, that is, the inmate culture. The counter-productivity of this so-called rehabilitative environment should be clearly recognised if the following suggested reforms are to be at all meaningful.

If the failures of our present prison system are recognised as a contributing variable to the current crime rate, reform would seem to be essential to future planning for that elusive objective - a crime free society. In view of the obvious need for some measure of public protection, and the need to reduce security at most prisons in Victoria, the construction of a high security prison is unavoidable. If risk prisoners could be housed in one high security area the current conflict between security and rehabilitation, which invariably undermines innovative corrective measures, could be resolved in favour of more imaginative rehabilitation programs involving the community and reducing the adverse effect of the inmate culture.

13. Security risk prisoners held at Geelong should be transferred, and a work release scheme should be introduced with the cooperation and participation of Geelong industry and commerce. The vast and diversified base of Geelong's industry is considered ideal to service the needs of

such a proposed scheme for Geelong Prison. A Work Release Board should be established to oversee the introduction and operation of work release. Its composition should involve representation from the Prisons Division, the Geelong Trades Hall, employers, Education Department, Employment Service, Local and State Government and police. The Barwon Region Crime Prevention and Corrections Council, through the Barwon Regional Council for Social Development, is recommended as the appropriate body to pursue this objective.

14. We recommend a juvenile remand centre sited in a roomy home in the Barwon Region accessible to families and in touch with the community. Juvenile offenders are currently remanded in Melbourne at Turana, Winlaton and Baltara. It was felt that Geelong could provide ideal sites for the small remand centres that are necessary. People working closely with youthful offenders emphasise the dire need for such an arrangement. It would naturally be the responsibility of the Department of Social Welfare to finance and staff the centre. This would give greater opportunity for assessment by local welfare officers who would be more likely to know the cases well.

15. There is as yet no branch at Geelong of VACRO (Victorian After-Care and Rehabilitation Organisation). The need for an organisation to assist released prisoners who are not the responsibility in any way of the Department of Social Welfare is too obvious for further comment. It is therefore recommended that an approach be made to VACRO in Melbourne by the Barwon Regional Crime Prevention and Corrections Council to establish a branch in this city.

16. In respect of the establishment of a Juvenile Attendance Centre or Youth Welfare Service, it was recommended that the Geelong Community Adolescent and Family Centre begin discussions with the Social Welfare Department regarding the extension of that Centre's current program to incorporate an attendance centre component.

17. In the closing stages of discussions the need for half-way houses and reasonable youth accommodation and concomitant supportive services were recognised.

However, time did not permit full consideration of this subject.

It was recommended that the Barwon Regional Crime Prevention and Corrections Council look into this area further.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, it could be said that the workshop proved beneficial in three ways.

First, as most participants were from the region, there was great value in the opportunity to meet people from other disciplines and with different backgrounds. Participants commented on the benefits of gaining understanding of the problems faced by others, and an appreciation of what is being done in other areas.

Secondly, through the involvement of many citizens in the public sessions, and through the coverage of the workshop by the media, public awareness and appreciation of the importance of generalised community concern and involvement in preventing crime should have been increased.

Thirdly, and perhaps most significantly, the recommendations which have come out of the workshop provide some guidelines for those involved in making decisions about the development of the community, so that they can be more aware of the way in which those decisions can add to or reduce the crime problem.

The real test of the value of this workshop, however, lies in the future. If there is not an improved liaison between the many people working towards crime prevention in the region, if there is not seen to be a greater concern and involvement by at least some people in the community, and, most importantly, if every one of the recommendations gets filed away or is in some other way overlooked and not acted upon, then a great deal of effort will have been wasted.

There are in the Barwon Region, organisations which are concerned with planning and coordinating community services. Their existence provides the means whereby action can be taken to implement some of the recommendations and to keep the issue of planning for, and participating in, crime prevention constantly before the community. The workshop represents an important step forward, but only one of many that must be taken if the Barwon Region is to reduce the crime rate - a goal which has eluded almost every developing urban area.

APPENDIX

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

GROUP 1 PLANNING

Chairman - W. Clifford	Australian Institute of Criminology
Dr J.H. Barlow	Mental Health Authority
Inspector J. Killeen	Victoria Police, Barwon District Headquarters
G. Angus	Director, Barwon Regional Council for Social Development
P. Hocking	Geelong Regional Planning Authority
Father K. Larkins	Director, Drug Referral and Counselling Service
J. Hosking	Regional Education Office
J. Aitken	Stipendiary Magistrate

GROUP 2 REDUCING CRIME OPPORTUNITIES

Chairman - Inspector D. Baker	Research and Planning Division, Victoria Police
M. Ball	Community Development Officer, South Barwon
Father N. Hayne	Industrial Chaplain
S. Koliatis	Norlane High School Student
K. Kneen	Wormald International Security
F. Day	Catholic Education Officer



GROUP 3 REDUCING CRIME MOTIVATION

Chairman - D. Challinger	Department of Criminology, Melbourne University
D. Parkes	Community Development Officer, Barwon Regional Council
N. Neary	Community Development Officer, Geelong City
D. Whitcroft	Administrator, Geelong Community Adolescent and Family Centre
R. Rogers	Education Officer, Geelong Prison
M. Schrever	Citizen
P. Brown	Student, Geelong College

GROUP 4 SECONDARY PREVENTION

Chairman - C. Bevan	Australian Institute of Criminology
Sergeant J. Gardiner	Officer-in-Charge, Norlane Police Station
Reverend A. Peerman	Prison Chaplain
J. Pedersen	Director, Y.W.C.A.
J. Murphy	Community Development Officer, Geelong West
R. Whittingham	Commonwealth Employment Service
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