



NSW Bureau of Crime
Statistics and Research



Griffith Criminology Institute

The Applied Research in **Crime** and **Justice Conference 2017**

Handbook

15-16 February 2017
Dockside Function Centre
Darling Harbour, Sydney, NSW
Phone: +61 2 8346 1100
Website: <http://bit.ly/25v3smZ>
Email: bocsar_seminars@justice.nsw.gov.au



DAY 1 Wednesday 15 February 2017

8.00am - 9.00am	Registration	
9.00am - 9.10am	Introduction: Dr Don Weatherburn , Director, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research	
9.10am - 9.20am	Welcome to country	
9.20am - 9.30am	Opening of proceedings	
9.30am - 10.30am	Keynote 1: Chair: Don Weatherburn Professor Steven Raphael , University of California, Berkeley: Sentencing reform in California and Public Safety.	
10.30am - 11.00am	MORNING TEA	
11.00am - 1.00pm	Session 1A: Chair: Suzanne Poynton	Session 1B: Chair: Efty Stavrou
	Stella Nalukwago Settumba , University of New South Wales. Economic evaluation of offender treatment programs: A systematic review of the literature with a focus on behavioural studies	Lily Trimboli , NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. Outcome evaluation of NSW's Safer Pathway domestic violence program: Victims' experiences
	Natasa Gisev & Marian Shanahan , University of New South Wales. A cost-effectiveness analysis of opioid substitution therapy upon prison release in reducing mortality among people with a history of opioid dependence	Melanie Millsteed & Sarah Coghlan , Crime Statistics Agency, Victoria. Identifying the differences between generalist and specialist family violence offenders: Risk factors, characteristics, and implications for policy and practice
	Robin Fitzgerald & Lorana Bartels , University of Queensland & Canberra University. Australian public opinion and parole	Andy Chiang & Stuart Ross , University of Melbourne. The challenges of effective police intervention into family violence in immigrant communities in Victoria
	Gloria Laycock , Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science at University College London. A new paradigm for police research?	Christine Bond , Griffith University. Sentencing breaches of Domestic Violence Protection Orders: Comparing a specialist court and mainstream court sentencing outcomes
1.00pm - 2.00pm	LUNCH	
2.00pm - 3.00pm	Keynote 2: Chair: Rick Sarre Professor Jerry Ratcliffe , Temple University, Philadelphia: Does predictive policing have a future?	
3.00pm - 3.30pm	AFTERNOON TEA	
3.30pm - 5.30pm	Session 2A: Chair: Jessie Holmes	Session 2B: Chair: Paul Nelson
	Hamish Thorburn , NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. Reducing trial delay in the NSW District Court	Carla Treloar , University of New South Wales. Housing, agency and luck in a qualitative study of men in the post-prison release period
	Tim Hughes , New Zealand Ministry of Justice. The New Zealand investment approach to justice	Jennifer Galouzis , Corrections NSW. Measuring institutional violence
	Jane Goodman-Delahunty , Charles Sturt University. Lifting the lid on jury reasoning and decision-making	Melanie Simpson, Azar Kariminia & Tony Butler , University of New South Wales. Drug use, injecting and associated risk behaviours among Australian prison entrants: 2004-2016
	Kate Warner , University of Tasmania. The Victorian Jury Sentencing Research Project	Michael Doyle , University of New South Wales. Prison based treatment programs for men with a history of problematic alcohol and other drug use: A systematic review
5.30pm - 7.00pm	COCKTAIL PARTY	

DAY 2 Thursday 16 February 2017

8.30am - 9:00am **Registration**

9:00am - 10:30am

Session 3A: Chair: Jackie Fitzgerald

John Toumbourou, Deakin University. Identifying policy options to prevent family violence and incarceration using longitudinal cohort and return-on-investment data

Anna Stewart, Griffith University. Effective prevention of child maltreatment

Stacy Tzoumakis, University of New South Wales. Using big data to examine the relationship between parental contact with the criminal justice system and the development of early childhood offspring aggression in a population sample

Session 3B: Chair: Yinny Wan

Dan Birks, Griffith University. Crime, Policing & Complexity: Computational Laboratories for Criminologists

Nick Scott, Centre for Population Health, Burnet Institute. Using simulation modelling to examine the impact of venue lockout and last-drink policies on drinking-related harms and costs to licensees

Mieke Snijder, University of New South Wales. Individual and community characteristics associated with alcohol related crimes among Aboriginal people and the outcomes of a community-based trial targeting these characteristics in regional NSW

10:30am - 11:00am

MORNING TEA

11:00am - 12:00am

Keynote 3: Chair: Anna Stewart

Elizabeth Drake, Washington State Institute for Public Policy: Using research evidence to reduce crime in Washington State: Trends, taxpayer costs, & "What works?"

LUNCH

12:00pm - 1:00pm

12:15 Open discussion about establishing a National Sentencing Network, James Morton & Anne Edwards, QLD Sentencing Advisory Council, main conference room

1:00pm - 2:30pm

Session 4A: Chair: Kylie Routledge

Janet Ransley, Griffith University. Hub policing: Evaluating a new policing strategy in two Queensland regions

Caitlin Hughes, University of New South Wales. Can police deter drug use and supply at music festivals and licensed entertainment precincts? An assessment of the deterrent effects of Australian street-level drug law enforcement

Neil Donnelly, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. Willingness to pay a fine

Session 4B: Chair: Nicole Mahoney

Stéphane Mahuteau, Flinders University. Crime victimisation and subjective well-being: Panel evidence from Australia

Jason Payne, Australian National University. The Australian crime decline: Insights from the offending trajectories of two New South Wales birth cohorts

Nabila Chowdhury, University of New South Wales. The relationship between psychoses and offending in New South Wales: A data-linkage study

2:30pm - 3:00pm

AFTERNOON TEA

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Keynote 4: Chair: Don Weatherburn

Professor Rick Sarre, University of South Australia & **Professor Paul Mazerolle**, Griffith University

What I would do with \$100 million to spend on law and order and criminal justice



Keynote speaker abstracts

Using research evidence to reduce crime in Washington State: Trends, taxpayer costs, & “What works?”

Elizabeth Drake

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A series of public policy reforms put into place since the mid-1990s has helped move Washington State toward the use of “evidence-based” programs in the adult criminal justice and juvenile justice systems. The central concept behind these reforms is to identify and implement strategies, shown through rigorous research, to reduce crime cost-effectively. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) – who conducts practical, non-partisan research at the request of the state legislature – will provide its most recent findings on “what works” to reduce crime. This presentation describes the conceptual methods behind WSIPP’s research approach as well as lessons learned within the applied research policy context. Evidence-based reforms have been a gradual, intentional process, requiring the continued efforts of statewide stakeholders.

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Sentencing Reform in California and Public Safety

Steven Raphael

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Since 2012, California has implemented two major sentencing reforms that have reduced the state’s incarceration rate to levels not seen since the early 1990s. First, in late 2011 the state implemented reforms that mandated local punishments for less serious felony offenders and curtailed the use of short prison terms for parole violations. Second, in 2014 voters passed an initiative that redefined a series of low level felonies to misdemeanors. The combined effect of these two reforms were to push the state’s incarceration rate from being comparable to the national average to being far below the national average.

In this talk, I will detail the history of these reforms and the manner in which they brought down the state’s prison and jail incarceration rates. I will also review current knowledge regarding the effects of these reforms on public safety in the state.

Does predictive policing have a future?

Jerry Ratcliffe

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Jerry Ratcliffe provides a brief outline of predictive policing, before explaining two recent initiatives from Philadelphia. First, a study of long-term and short-term crime prediction techniques suggests that responding to short-term crime spikes may not be as effective as dealing with emerging longer-term crime trends based on year-on-year changes in demographics and crime patterns. The presentation will then describe and reveal some findings from the Philadelphia Predictive Policing Experiment, a six month realistic and randomized controlled trial of predictive geographic policing across the fifth largest city in America.

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What I would do with \$100 million to spend on law and order and criminal justice

Rick Sarre and Paul Mazerolle

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Governments (and indeed private agencies and not-for-profit organisations) have choices when it comes to spending money on ‘law and order’ issues. Currently, we spend a lot of money on initiatives that research has shown can stem the flow of potential offenders (and re-offenders) into the justice system. But far more money is directed towards more punitive measures. How should we balance our choices? As a result of very good theorising and empirical research in this last generation, we now know a great deal more about crime and its prevention than we did a generation ago. There are some clear paths that need to be taken, but those holding the purse-strings often seem reluctant to opt for them. This disconnect can lead to poor resource allocation and potential wastage of public and private moneys. In this presentation I will take \$100 million dollars and place each one into a suite of research initiatives and programs that I think will deliver the best outcomes for crime reduction in Australia today.

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Session abstracts

Crime, Policing & Complexity: Computational Laboratories for Criminologists

Daniel Birks

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The synthetic society is a relatively recent addition to the social scientist's toolkit. Computational agent-based models allow researchers to create artificial environments and inhabit them with virtual populations of decision makers who perceive, reason, and act according to empirical observation and theoretical proposition. Free from traditional logistical and ethical constraints, these models vitalise a new form of in-vitro social science; enabling systematic simulation experiments that explore the causal links between individual behaviour and aggregate societal outcomes. Moreover, they provide practitioners and policy makers with computational laboratories capable of estimating the downstream impacts of potential interventions in complex social systems. This session provides an introduction to the agent-based method, discusses some of its strengths and weaknesses, and outlines two illustrative applications. The first explores simulation methods to prototype call-for-service response strategies; the second, how simulated environments can inform the design of safer street network configurations.

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Sentencing Breaches of Domestic Violence Protection Orders: Comparing a specialist court and mainstream court sentencing outcomes

Christine Bond

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Offender accountability is a common objective of specialist domestic violence courts. Accountability is often seen in terms of sanctions, which indicate a lack of tolerance of this type of behaviour (e.g. courts will impose more severe sanctions for breaches of domestic violence protection orders). This suggests that we should

expect specialist courts to sentence more harshly in cases of breaches of domestic violence orders. To examine the impact of a specialist domestic violence court model, this paper compares the sentencing of breaches of domestic violence protection orders in a specialist court and mainstream court in Queensland. Relying on court administrative data for two Magistrate Court sites, the analysis maps the sentencing outcomes for breaches of domestic violence protection orders. The findings are discussed in terms of a broader conceptualisation of offender accountability.

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The challenges of effective police intervention into family violence in immigrant communities in Victoria

Andy Chiang and Stuart Ross

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The Royal Commission into Family Violence in Victoria has made 19 recommendations relating to the policing of family violence and 10 recommendations related to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and faith communities. However, only one of these recommendations relates specifically to the policing of family violence among CALD communities, and there is presently little research to illustrate the actual challenges that police face when policing family violence among CALD communities.

This paper highlights the practical challenges that police and specialist service providers have faced when intervening in family violence among CALD communities. These challenges persist despite past policy reforms that have attempted to provide a more responsive service to minority groups. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with a purposive sample of service providers who have had significant experience working with family violence victims from immigrant communities. Findings from this research suggest that previous family violence reforms in Victoria have resulted in some improved outcomes for CALD victims of family violence, but there are particular challenges that persist despite significant policy reform. Possible solutions to assist police and service providers in intervening effectively in family violence among CALD communities are discussed, particularly in relation to the implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendations.

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The relationship between psychoses and offending in New South Wales - A data-linkage study

Nabila Zohora Chowdhury, Armita Adily, Olayan Albalawi, Handan Wand, Azar Kariminia and Tony Butler

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Background: Psychosis is a risk factor for offending, particularly violent offending. The extent to which psychosis contributes to offending is likely to vary due to factors such as treatment practices, legal considerations, and the allocation of resources for mental health services. Further research into the relationship between psychosis and offending is required to better inform policy development and reduce offending by people with psychosis.

Aim: To examine the relationship between psychosis and offending behaviour in New South Wales (NSW). This presentation will outline the study methodology and preliminary findings.

Methods: A retrospective cohort involving a population level data-linkage using nine administrative data collections in NSW.

Results: A cohort of 444,432 individuals (244,098 men and 200,334 women) diagnosed with psychosis between July 2001 and 31 December 2012, and 888,851 age and sex matched controls were linked to the Reoffending database. Over one fifth (23.63%) of the cohort had a history of offending. Further findings such as age and sex differences, Aboriginality and offending in people with psychosis will be presented.

Conclusion: This study is the first in NSW to provide population level data on the association between psychosis and offending to determine predictor factors for offending by those with psychosis.

Willingness to pay a fine

Neil Donnelly, Suzanne Poynton and Don Weatherburn
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Aim: To determine whether the fine amount, the fine detection mode and the socioeconomic status of the offender influence the willingness to pay a fine.

Method: Adults from NSW were surveyed about their experience with traffic fines and willingness to pay fines. 71 per cent of respondents were obtained from a CATI sample and 29 per cent from on-line surveys. Those who had been fined were randomly allocated to scenarios about paying a future speeding fine based on fine amount (\$234, \$436, \$2,252) and detection mode (speed camera or police).

Results: 2,222 (70%) of the 3,154 respondents had been fined for a parking or traffic offence. 21 per cent of this group had not paid their fine on time, while 41 per cent had considered not paying it. Higher fine amounts were associated with lower willingness to pay. While over 80 per cent of the \$254 fine scenario was likely or almost certain to pay a future speeding fine, this was only the case for 69 per cent of the \$436 scenario and 31 per cent of the \$2,252 scenario. There was no significant effect of the mode of detection being speed camera or police. Respondents who were not in paid employment were less willing to pay the \$2,252 fine than respondents who were in paid employment (63% certainly would not or would be unlikely to pay vs. 53%). Respondents who had previously considered not paying their fine were more likely to be male, younger, having known a non-payer of a fine who got away with it, had more prior speeding offences and had been fined more recently.

Conclusion: Consideration should be given to conducting an economic analysis to determine at what point, the marginal costs associated with higher fines exceed the marginal benefits, at least for offences where fines are commonly used.

Prison based treatment programs for men with a history of problematic alcohol and other drug use: A Systematic Review

Michael Doyle¹, Tony Butler¹, Jill Guthrie², Anthony Shakeshaft³

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³ National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales

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What is the evidence for Australia's prison based AoD treatment programs? This presentation reports on

the findings of a systematic review of peer reviewed literature on the effectiveness of prison based AoD treatment. The search strategy included both Australian and international literature published between 1995 and 2015.

The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses was used to guide the systematic review. The Dictionary for Effective Public Health Practice Project: Quality Assessment Tool for Quantitative Studies, and Long and Godfrey's (2004) evaluation tool was used to assess the quality of the research papers.

The review identified 25 quantitative and one qualitative paper for inclusion. Of the treatment programs there were nine residential programs where inmates were separated from the general prison population, eight prison-based therapeutic communities, three treatment programs located in a therapeutic prison/facility, and seven within prison outpatient treatment programs where inmates were in the general population but attended the AoD program. The majority of papers reported a positive impact from the AoD treatment program evaluated, however, 81% of evaluations were found to be methodologically poor. With just one published peer review paper on Australian prison based AoD programs it is clear that further research is needed within this area.

Australian public opinion and parole

Robin Fitzgerald and Lorana Bartels
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Understanding public perceptions of parole is at a critical stage in Australia. Recent cases of serious parole violations in many Australian states and territories are presumed to have eroded public confidence and have intensified calls for reform, fuelled by media reports that parole boards do not prioritise community safety. However, beyond the media portrayal, little is known about the broader public understanding of parole and attitudes towards its use. We draw on both national survey and in-depth interview data from a new national project on public attitudes toward parole and correctional practices in Australia. In particular, we consider the variability in public opinion toward parole, what accounts for this variation, and the implications

for the connection between criminal justice policy and a supportive public. Overall, our results show the Australian public holds diverse views on parole and correctional practices that are differentially motivated by core beliefs, values and emotions. We discuss the implications of these findings for policy, practice and research.

Measuring institutional violence

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The current study aimed to explore methods that allow for meaningful comparison of correctional centre performance in managing inmate risk of assault, by identifying and controlling for extraneous variance associated with differences in the composition of inmate populations and institutional factors across sites. A multilevel regression model was conducted to identify individual and site level predictors of assault incidents that are unrelated to correctional centre performance, using a cohort of inmates housed at Corrective Services New South Wales (CSNSW) over the 2013-2014 financial year. The performance of sites was calculated from the residual disparity between the predicted and observed incidence of assaults. Multilevel modelling identified a number of significant predictors at the individual (age; prior assault incidents; prior assault offences in custody; index violent offence; time in segregation; hours employed) and site (security level; routine hours out of cells) levels. Whereas the majority of variance was accounted for by differences at the individual level, almost 40% of variance was accounted for by differences at the site level. There were substantial differences in the ranking of sites when comparing conventional observed rates and residual values. Examining differences between the observed and predicted incidence of assaults was an effective method of adjusting for extraneous sources of variance when comparing performance across sites. It was concluded that multilevel modelling had substantial evaluative and statistical advantages compared to other methods of comparison.



Lifting the lid on jury reasoning and decision-making

Jane Goodman-Delahunty

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The jury system is a key component of democratic governance, but its survival is threatened. Popular contentions that juries are arbitrary, unreliable, and easily swayed by passion and prejudice are difficult to assess because deliberations are secret. Empirical studies of jury deliberations offer some contrary insights. Different versions of same core evidence on crimes such as filicide, terrorism, and child sexual abuse were presented to jury eligible community members in realistic simulated trials. Using a rigorous pretest-posttest paradigm and multilevel modelling, individual juror biases and jury group influences were distinguished. Systematically coded transcriptions of jury deliberations disclosed how juries made sense of the evidence, assessed witness credibility, dealt with multiple counts and applied the standard beyond a reasonable doubt. Some individual jurors were less well-equipped than others, but errors were corrected in deliberation, and verdicts were based on relevant evidence. The juries were not overwhelmed by the number of witnesses or complex charges, and did not engage in reasoning that was unfairly prejudicial to the defendant. While there is room for improvement in way juries are instructed, these outcomes may allay suspicions about jury irrationality, and reassure criminal justice administrators and practitioners that confidence in juries is not misplaced.

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The New Zealand Investment Approach to Justice

Tim Hughes

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In New Zealand, administrative datasets have been combined into a linked person-level database called the Integrated Data Infrastructure. For all New Zealanders, this database combines a wide range of information including police, courts and corrections involvement, welfare receipt, tax payments, child protection involvement, educational involvement, health system interaction, census information, and so forth. We have used this database to build a microsimulation model that predicts annual offending and victimisation

for all New Zealanders over the next 30 years. We are combining this risk modelling with what works information from the Campbell Collaboration, Washington State Institute, the Swedish Crime Prevention Council and New Zealand research to estimate the long-term return on investment of different evidence-based interventions applied at different stages of the lifecourse, by different justice and social sector agencies.

In this presentation we will provide an overview of the model and how we are using it to provide more robust evidence-based policy advice to Government on investment options to reduce crime.

For more information about the Investment Approach, see <http://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/key-initiatives/investment-approach-to-justice/>

For more information about the Integrated Data Infrastructure, see http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/snapshots-of-nz/integrated-data-infrastructure.aspx

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Can police deter drug use and supply at music festivals and licensed entertainment precincts? An assessment of the deterrent effects of Australian street-level drug law enforcement

C. Hughes¹, V. Moxham-Hall¹, A. Ritter¹, R. MacCoun² and D. Weatherburn³

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² Stanford Law School

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Introduction: In efforts to prevent or deter illicit drug offending Australian street-level drug law enforcement deploy an increasing array of strategies (including policing with drug detection dogs, saturation policing and collaborative policing). Limited evidence of deterrence exists. This study assessed the likely impacts of four Australian policing strategies on the incidence and severity of drug use and selling at two common policing settings: outdoor music festivals and licensed entertainment precincts.

Methods: A national online survey was constructed with ten hypothetical or experimental vignettes: taking into account four policing strategies and a counter-factual (no police presence) and two target settings. The survey was administered to 4146 people who regularly attend

festivals and licensed entertainment precincts in late 2015. Participants were block-randomised to receive two policing vignettes and asked under each whether they would use, possess, purchase, give or sell illicit drugs.

Results: For the festival setting, police presence led to a small reduction in engagement in drug offending: particularly willingness to carry drugs into festival grounds. However, it had minimal or counterproductive impacts on purchasing or supply. Moreover, offending impacts varied significantly across the four policing strategies. Impacts of drug law enforcement at licensed entertainment precincts will be compared.

Discussion: The findings suggest that street-level policing may deter some forms of drug offending, but that the capacity to deter will be shaped by the chosen target setting and the specific policing strategy deployed. They further suggest that some popular strategies may carry significant trade-offs for crime control and public health.

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Effective prevention of child maltreatment

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Effective prevention of child maltreatment is dependent upon knowledge and understanding of the perpetrators. Yet, the current evidence base provides limited insight into the heterogeneity of maltreatment perpetrators and trajectories of perpetration over the life-course. Our study is the first large longitudinal study in Australia focused on the perpetrators of child maltreatment. We use administrative data reflecting individuals' substantiated contacts with the Queensland child protection system as perpetrators between 10 years and 30 years of age (N=3,217). The data are population-based representing all substantiated individual perpetrators in Queensland born in 1983 or 1984. Our results provide a life-course profile of maltreatment perpetrators and explore perpetration heterogeneity with reference to age, gender, race, perpetrator-victim relationships and maltreatment characteristics. By shifting attention from the victims of child maltreatment to the perpetrators of maltreatment we identify potential points for intervention and contribute to efforts to stop maltreatment at its source.

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A new paradigm for police research?

Gloria Laycock

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This session will describe the 'engineering approach' to theory development and evidence gathering in the context of evidence based policing. It will draw on the experience of the UK research consortium set up to support the What Works Centre for Crime Reduction. Although the case will be made that the generation of evidence on what works in crime reduction, and indeed on other aspects of policing, would be better served by including an engineering approach to evidence development, some of the difficulties in doing so will be rehearsed.

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Crime victimisation and subjective well-being: Panel evidence from Australia

Stéphane Mahuteau

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This paper estimates the effect of physical violence and property crimes on subjective well-being in Australia. Our methodology improves on previous contributions by (i) controlling for the endogeneity of victimisation and (ii) analysing the heterogeneous effect of victimisation along the whole distribution of well-being. Using fixed effects panel estimation, we find that both types of crimes reduce reported well-being to a large extent, with physical violence exerting a larger average effect than property crimes. Furthermore, using recently developed panel data quantile regression model with fixed effects, we show that the negative effects of both crimes are highly heterogeneous, with a monotonic decrease over the distribution of subjective well-being.

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Identifying the differences between generalist and specialist family violence offenders: Risk factors, characteristics, and implications for policy and practice

Melanie Millsteed and Sarah Coghlan
Crime Statistics Agency

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Some recent research has identified that contrary to much public discourse, a large majority of family and intimate partner violence offenders commit a range of other offences in addition to family violence offences, including both non-violent and violent offences. However, to date a paucity of research has examined whether there are identifiable differences between offenders whose only offending behaviour involves violence against family members and those who can be more broadly classified as ‘generalist’ offenders.

The aims of this research, therefore, are to identify, via analysis of police recorded crime data, whether there are cohorts of Victorian ‘specialist’ and ‘generalist’ family violence offenders, and to explore the differences between these cohorts, in terms of their demographic characteristics, the frequency and nature of their domestic violence behaviour and identified risk factors involved in their domestic violence offending.

The results of the research will be discussed in light of the implications for policy and practice, with a specific focus on how the results might inform the targeting and design of interventions designed to address domestic violence offending behaviour.

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The Australian Crime Decline: Insights from the offending trajectories of two New South Wales birth cohorts

Jason Payne
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The Australian Crime Decline has now been well documented. In particular, comprehensive analysis in New South Wales has shown significant reductions in most major crime categories. Coinciding with a significant and abrupt shortage of heroin, early analysis of the crime

decline pointed to a rapidly changing drug market and the subsequent reduction in drug-related offending as a principal explanation, yet, the crime decline in that state has lasted longer than earlier anticipated and so new explanations must be found for its persistence. This paper describes in detail the results of a comparative analysis of the criminal offending trajectories of the 1984 and 1994 NSW birth cohorts. These specific cohorts have been selected to represent two developmentally and contextually distinct periods in NSW. Born in 1984, the first cohort transitioned through adolescence at a time of sustained year-on-year growth in the rates of drug, property and violent crime. The second cohort transitioned through adolescence at a time when crime rates were in decline and it is the difference in their offending patterns (onset, escalation and offence-type mix) which tell an important story about both the causes and long term consequences of the crime decline in NSW.

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Hub Policing: Evaluating a New Policing Strategy in Two Queensland Regions

Janet Ransley, David Bartlett, Tim Hart, Sandra Smith & Michael Chataway
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This paper focuses on what police do, how they do it in diverse communities, and the role of organisational structures in promoting or inhibiting performance. The aim of the research is to identify how police operational models can be adapted to better achieve crime reduction, community building, and legitimacy.

We report on a Queensland trial of a ‘hub policing’ model in two large regional cities. The model is designed to overcome a disconnect between crime problems and police deployment practices, which sees police spread throughout a geographical area, even though crime and disorder is concentrated in ‘hot spots’ and on ‘hot shots’. The model maintains a traditional police district to deal with calls for service and general issues, but establishes a co-existing police hub. The hub is intended to focus specifically on reducing identified problems relying on intelligence-led, problem-solving, community-based approaches.

We use data from diverse sources to examine the impact of this change on indicators including recorded crime, calls for service, and community and officer perceptions. We also examine differences in the operationalization of the model between the two sites. We conclude that Hub Policing has potential to shift policing to a problem solving approach.

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Using simulation modelling to examine the impact of venue lockout and last-drink policies on drinking-related harms and costs to licensees

Nick Scott

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Aims: Many variations of venue lockout and last-drink policies have been introduced in attempts to reduce drinking-related harms. We estimate the public health gains and licensee costs of these policies using a computer simulated population of young adults engaging in heavy drinking.

Method: Using an agent-based model we implemented 1am/2am/3am venue lockouts in conjunction with last-drinks zero/one/two hours later, or at current closing times. Outcomes included: the number of incidents of verbal aggression in public drinking venues, private venues or on the street; and changed revenue to public venues.

Results: The most effective policy in reducing verbal aggression among agents was 1am lockouts with current closing times. All policies produced substantial reductions in street-based incidents of verbal aggression among agents (33-81%) due to the smoothing of transport demand. Direct revenue losses were 1-9% for simulated licensees, with later lockout times and longer periods between lockout and last-drinks producing smaller revenue losses.

Conclusion: Simulation models are useful for exploring consequences of policy change. Our simulation suggests that additional hours between lockout and last-drinks could reduce aggression by easing transport demand, while minimising revenue loss to venue owners. Direct policies to reduce late-night transport-related disputes should be considered.

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Economic Evaluation of offender treatment programs: A systematic review of the literature with a focus on behavioural studies

Stella Nalukwago Settumba¹, Georgina Chambers², Marian Shanahan³, Peter Schofield⁴, Tony Butler¹

¹ Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales

² Centre for Big Data, University of New South Wales

³ National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales

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Aim: With significant sums of money expended on the justice system (\$15 billion a year in Australia), economic evaluations of interventions are critical to informing resource allocation policy. This study systematically reviews and assesses the scope and quality of economic evaluations on offender treatment programs that aim to reduce recidivism, a major goal of the justice system.

Method: Full text articles between 2002- 2016 were searched from 6 bibliographic databases. Inclusion criteria: studies carried out a full economic evaluation, evaluating both costs and consequences of alternative strategies; the intervention group were offenders/prisoners; a comparison group was included. Study methods, design, analysis, and interpretation of results were reviewed and the quality judged using the Drummond checklist for economic evaluations.

Results: Seventeen studies met the inclusion criteria; 13 conducted in USA, 3 in Australia and 1 in UK. Wide variation was found in methodological approaches, including differences in perspective, study design, cost data type and outcome measures. Fourteen studies deviated from at least one item on the Drummond checklist, often in identification and measurement of costs and consequences. Overall, 12 studies reported a positive net benefit or cost effective treatment program compared with an alternative.

Conclusion: Most treatment programs for offenders remain unevaluated from an economic perspective. Economic evaluation gaps remain in the area of offender treatment programs with little evidence to inform policy.

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A cost-effectiveness analysis of opioid substitution therapy upon prison release in reducing mortality among people with a history of opioid dependence

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¹ National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales

² NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

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Aim: Although opioid substitution therapy (OST) immediately after prison release reduces mortality, the cost-effectiveness of treatment has not been examined. Therefore, we undertook a cost-effectiveness analysis of OST treatment upon prison release and the prevention of death in the first 6 months post-release.

Design: Population-based, retrospective data linkage study using records of OST entrants (1985-2010), charges and court appearances (1993-2011), prison episodes (2000-11) and death notifications (1985-2011).

Setting: New South Wales, Australia.

Participants: A cohort of 16,073 people with a history of opioid dependence released from prison for the first time between 1 January 2000 and 30 June 2011.

Intervention: OST treatment compared to no OST treatment at prison release.

Measurements: Mortality and costs (treatment, criminal justice system-court, penalties, prison-and the social costs of crime) were evaluated at 6 months post-release. Analyses included propensity score matching, bootstrapping and regression.

Findings: A total of 13,468 individuals were matched (6734 in each group). Twenty (0.3%) people released onto OST died, compared with 46 people (0.7%) not released onto OST. The final average costs were lower for the group that received OST post-release (\$7206 versus \$14,356). The incremental cost-effectiveness ratio showed that OST post-release was dominant, incurring lower costs and saving more lives. The probability that OST post-release is cost-effective per life-year saved is 96.7% at a willingness to pay of \$500.

Conclusion: Opioid substitution treatment (compared with no such treatment), given on release from prison to people with a history of opioid dependence, is cost-effective in reducing mortality in the first 6 months of release.

Drug use, injecting and associated risk behaviours among Australian prison entrants: 2004-2016

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Globally, 29 million people suffer from drug use disorders; almost half report injecting drug use. In 2015, 67% of prison entrants in Australia had used an illicit drug in the past year compared to 15% of the general population, while 45% of the National Prison Entrants Bloodborne Virus Survey (NPEBBVS) participants in 2013 had ever injected a drug (versus 0.3%). In addition to negative health and social consequences for the user, problematic drug use contributes to a significant financial and social burden to the community. This paper reports on the changes and predictors of drug use among prison entrants participating in the NPEBBVS between 2004 and 2016. The NPEBBVS has been conducted triennially across Australia since 2004 (n=2,922 excluding 2016). The survey is conducted over a two week period by custodial nurses upon entry to prison. Preliminary findings indicate a decrease in the overall proportion of prison entrants who have ever injected a drug and a decrease in age of first injection. Results also indicate a change in the drug of last injection, with an increase in amphetamine and a decrease in heroin use. Understanding the changes and predictors of changes in drug use among those who enter prison will assist in the development of appropriate drug treatment programs and policy responses.

Individual and community characteristics associated with alcohol related crimes (ARC) among Aboriginal people and the outcomes of a community-based trial targeting these characteristics in regional NSW

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Aims: This study aimed to identify individual and community characteristics that are associated with higher rates of ARC involving Aboriginal people in New South Wales (NSW) and evaluate a multiple baseline community-based trial targeting these characteristics in three regional communities in NSW.

Methods: Police recorded criminal incident data from BOCSAR were analysed using multi-level Poisson regression model to investigate individual and community characteristics associated with ARC. Using the results, community-based activities were developed and implemented with Aboriginal people in three regional communities. BOCSAR data was used to evaluate the impact of the community-based activities on rates of ARC.

Results: Being aged 13 to 29, living in a remote community, a community with a high proportion of on-venue licences and a high proportion of Aboriginal people were associated with higher rates of ARC. Preliminary findings indicated a reduction in ARC committed by young Aboriginal people on high risk alcohol times after implementation of community-based activities targeting these characteristics.

Conclusion: This study used criminal incident data to develop and evaluate community-based programs to reduce ARC among young Aboriginal people in regional NSW.

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Reducing Trial Delay in the District Court

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Each year, approximately 2000 people are committed for trial in the NSW District Criminal Court (DCC). The time taken to finalise cases which proceed to trial has been growing over the last five years. Where the accused is on bail, the average time between committal for trial and trial finalisation in the NSW DCC has grown by 66 per cent since 2011. Where the accused is in custody, the average time between committal for trial and case finalisation has grown by 49 per cent over the same period. This rapid rise is of great concern.

Various reforms have been proposed in order to help alleviate congestion in the court system; however, the effects of the proposed options are difficult to estimate before implementation. The present paper describes a computer simulation model of the NSW DCC and uses it to evaluate the relative effectiveness of various delay reduction reforms, such as appointing additional judges, keeping the courts open all year round and increasing the proportion of early guilty pleas.

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Identifying policy options to prevent family violence and incarceration using longitudinal cohort and return-on-investment data

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Rates of family violence and incarceration have been rising in recent decades in the state of Victoria, Australia. Many of the options to assertively reduce family violence have the consequence of increasing incarceration. This paper reports a recently completed project that sought to identify life-course prevention options to reduce the young adult incidence of family violence while also reducing incarceration rates. To achieve this, a feasibility analysis was completed merging longitudinal cohort data on risk factors for family violence and incarceration with economic return-on-investment data relevant to risk factor prevention programs. Longitudinal data were sourced from the International Youth Development Study



(IYDS: N = 2,884), a 12-year study recruited from a state-representative sample of students across Victoria, Australia in 2002. Return-on-investment data were sourced from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy. The analysis estimated the reduction in young adult family violence and incarceration that would have been achieved across Victoria if a \$150 million investment (20% of the planned Victorian prison budget) had been spent on a mix of five evidence-based prevention programs.

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Housing, agency and luck in a qualitative study of men in the post-prison release period

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This pilot study aimed to identify the strategies, resources and services used by ex-prisoners to manage their health, housing and drug use.

In Aug-Sept 2016, qualitative interviews were conducted with 15 participants of the PATH study (a cohort of 500 men with recent histories of injecting drug use), 3-15 months post release from one of three Victorian prisons.

All men lived in the Melbourne metropolitan area. For some men the immediate post-release period was overwhelming and drug use was described as a respite. Housing featured as a key issue for most men and was described as impacting on most other aspects of their lives. Connection with services was variable (and absent for those not released on parole) and influenced by the “good luck” of having a “proactive” parole officer. Despite this, some men showed significant agency in pursuing programs and making significant decisions about their health. Men typically described little support from prison or other services in transition to community or throughcare.

The experiences of men in this study demonstrated significant gaps in support for participants’ housing, drug use and other health and social needs. Programmatic responses which leverage the momentum of the men themselves warrant further development.

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Outcome evaluation of NSW’s Safer Pathway program: Victims’ experiences

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To assess whether providing case co-ordination via the Safer Pathway program reduces domestic violence victims’ experiences of proscribed behaviours, telephone interviews were conducted with two groups of women who police assessed to be at serious threat of future harm or injury - one group from the Safer Pathway sites (n = 69) and another group from comparison sites (n = 61). The study used a repeated measures design with each woman interviewed regarding her experiences of proscribed behaviours during two four-week reference periods - before the index domestic violence incident where police assessed her to be at serious future threat and after the case co-ordination processes (for the Safer Pathway group)/equivalent period (for the comparison group). Results will be presented and their implications discussed.

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Using Big Data to examine the relationship between parental contact with the criminal justice system and the development of early childhood offspring aggression in a population sample

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Aim: To examine the impact of maternal and paternal criminal justice system (CJS) involvement on offspring aggression at age 5 years, while also considering important risk factors (socio-economic disadvantage, parental mental illness).

Method: The sample consists of 66,477 children and their parents from the New South Wales Child Development Study, an epidemiological multi-agency, intergenerational record linkage study. Information from a teacher-reported survey of early childhood development (2009 Australian Early Development Census) was linked with administrative records from multiple sources (justice, health, education, welfare). Hierarchical logistic regression was conducted to determine the effects of maternal and paternal CJS contact on offspring aggression.

Results: Maternal and paternal CJS involvement was significantly associated with high levels of offspring aggression at age 5 years. The strength of association was greatest when parents were involved in frequent (≥ 6 offences: adjusted odds ratio [aOR] range=1.8-2.1) and violent (aOR range=1.7-1.9) offending. The effect of maternal and paternal offending on offspring aggression was similar, and remained significant after controlling for socio-demographic indicators and parental mental illness.

Conclusion: Parental involvement with the CJS influences offspring aggression in kindergarten, highlighting the importance of intervention and prevention from the earliest developmental stages.

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The Victorian Jury Sentencing Research Project

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This paper will discuss the findings from the ARC Discovery Project which asked jurors about the sentence for the offender who was convicted in their trial. As well as comparing each juror's sentence with the judge's sentence in each case, the paper will discuss differences between judges and jurors in relation to the purpose of the sentence and the relevance of aggravating and mitigating factors. The study found that the views of judges and jurors with respect to sentence severity were much more closely aligned than mass public opinion would suggest but there were quite striking differences between the stated purposes of the sentence.

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