An examination of the utility of criminal curfews as a policy response to youth crime in Australia
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Abstracts
Listed in alphabetical order by surname
Child sexual exploitation: Offender characterisation

Silvio Basile, Victoria Police

An enhanced response model (ERM) for child sexual exploitation (CSE) has been defined in response to challenges faced by both Victoria Police and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in responding to CSE. The ERM provides a framework in which Victoria Police and DHHS work in close partnership to provide a coordinated response to at-risk young people.

An evaluation of an ERM pilot concluded that while it was effective in improving the response to victims of CSE, there was scope to improve the way information about persons of interest (POIs) was captured, shared and used to reduce the risk of CSE and bring offenders to account. In response, an offender characterisation tool is being developed to explore whether distinct CSE offender typologies exist and, if so, whether these can be used to prioritise disruption activities. A review of existing research revealed that there is a clear knowledge gap with regard to offenders of CSE.

POIs are typically identified by carers. They are likely contributors to the sexual exploitation of at-risk children. By encouraging the collection of information about these POIs and the sharing of this information with police, a repository of data relating to CSE POIs has been built. Data from police and DHHS assets have been collated, focusing on risk factors previously associated with child sexual abuse offenders.

This presentation will outline the initial analysis of this dataset, which suggests there are likely to be distinct cohorts of CSE POIs based on offending history, current networks, and other
demographic characteristics. It is believed that by examining the effectiveness of disruption activities associated with various typologies, the most appropriate disruption activities can be prioritised. This work suggests that the future of CSE POI intervention will benefit from close collaboration between support agencies and policy focused on disruption.

Authors
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Preventing recurrent violent behaviour perpetrated by youth

Michael Beilken, Victoria Police

Therapeutic measures provided to children who are perpetrators of family violence may assist to alleviate family pressures in the home and prevent recurrent violent behaviour. Theoretically, youth crime recidivism has manifested in Victoria due to the lack of available early intervention methods. Youths considered a good prospect for rehabilitation often face challenges if no support, supervision, therapeutic or reparative services are provided when early contact is made with police. Evidence tends to support that, when police provide youth an opportunity to be diverted away from the justice system, positive impacts can be experienced.

Victoria Police recently piloted a Family Violence Youth Diversion program at Moorabbin Children’s Court. The pilot program coordinated a community partnership, whereby registered family violence practitioners aligned with partnered stakeholders MOIRA and headspace. The family violence prevention program aimed to support adolescent perpetrators found to have committed violence in the home by developing their cognitive awareness of their offending behavioural patterns. Police develop trust and stability between stakeholders to provide organisational interoperability and
information-sharing processes, thereby allowing the partnership to assist police to identify ‘at risk’ youth and support referral or diversion applications. There is no current provision to provide offending youth a caution for committing family violence offences. Victoria Police collected data by recording offences where youth were diverted from Moorabbin Children’s Court; the information was de-identified and then evaluated by the Crime Statistics Agency. Data suggest youths diverted from the justice system and offered therapeutic support are less likely to commit the same type of offence.

**Connecting with vulnerable communities**

**Maria Bennett, Neighbourhood Watch Australasia**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) adults are 15 times more likely to be imprisoned than non-Indigenous Australians. As at June 2014, the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of ATSI prisoners, at 86 percent, or 1,279 prisoners.

In 2015–16, ATSI children were 25 times more likely to be in detention than non-Indigenous children. With low educational achievement a major risk factor for homelessness and crime, a significant local concern in Arnhem Land was school attendance. A school in the region reported average school attendance rates at just 29.5 percent. The World Health Organization supports the implementation of targeted, locally delivered interventions aimed at supporting young people through a medium they can access, such as school; impacting prosocial abilities, educational attainment and employment prospects, preventing homelessness and crime.

The Gunbalanya Project aims to support and increase average student attendance at the Gunbalanya preschool, primary and secondary schools, increase community safety awareness, change community perspectives on the importance of education, and improve the relationship between the local community and
the police. This was achieved by providing incentives for school attendance, creating localised community resources to promote positive attitudes towards education, liaising with local Indigenous community officers and police. Collaborations were formed with key community stakeholders such as local police, Aboriginal liaison officers, government agencies, schools and community members. Outcomes of this ongoing project will be discussed.

In addition to Neighbourhood Watch Australasia’s commitment to connecting to all vulnerable groups, a series of diagrammatic brochures have also been developed for the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community to increase their personal, public and property safety.

Moving from evaluation to practice: The case of the Southport Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Court trial

Christine Bond, Griffith University
Natalie Parker, Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General

In 2015, the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General established the Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Court in Southport, as a response to the recommendations in the February 2015 report of the Queensland Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence. This pilot court was independently evaluated in 2016 (after 12 months of operation). Key findings of the evaluation included: evidence that the specialist court contributed to improved victim satisfaction with the process, enhancement of stakeholder relationships with the court, and the development of a culture of innovation and service.
This presentation discusses the role and approach of the evaluation and the ways in which evaluation results have been translated to shape and improve ongoing practice. In particular, it is argued that a more collaborative approach to evaluation enhances the translation of evidence into practice. The tensions between government departmental needs and priorities and the independence and robustness of the evaluation are discussed.

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Crime Crackdown: A collaborative campaign approach to reducing crime and creating safer communities across Victoria

Hollie Bone, Crime Stoppers Victoria

Over the past two years Crime Stoppers Victoria (CSV) has strategically targeted four regional communities in Victoria to help address crime trends. These initiatives involved a strategic collaboration between CSV, Victoria Police, local media partners and the broader community. These campaigns aimed to leverage community information to locate and arrest people wanted by Victoria Police for crimes committed in the local areas.

These Crime Crackdown campaigns have proven to be extremely successful. Over 50 percent of offenders were located and arrested due to community intelligence provided during the campaigns. Crime Crackdowns paved the way as a deterrent to other criminals, while the statistics also show that crime levels reduced during the campaign periods. As an example, in the Bendigo Crime Crackdown there was a 50 percent reduction in burglary during the campaign period.

CSV developed comprehensive evaluations of each Crime Crackdown campaign. From this, learnings were used to develop
future campaign strategies, ensuring best possible outcomes were achieved. For example, initial campaigns had a high volume crime focus with latter initiatives adapted to address more specific requirements of the local police and community.

Based on the continual gathering of evidence and results, this campaign model will continue to evolve and be implemented across Victorian communities by Crime Stoppers Victoria.

**Targeted, timely and graduated responses to domestic violence offending**

Rick Brown, Australian Institute of Criminology

Drawing on repeat victimisation studies, and analysing police data on domestic violence incidents, the current study examined the prevalence and correlates of short-term reoffending. The results showed that a significant proportion of offenders reoffended in the weeks and months following a domestic violence incident. Individuals who reoffended more quickly were more likely to be involved in multiple incidents in a short period of time. Offenders with a history of domestic violence—particularly more frequent offending—and of breaching violence orders were more likely to reoffend. Most importantly, the risk of reoffending was cumulative, increasing with each subsequent incident. The findings have important implications for police and other frontline agencies responding to domestic violence, demonstrating the importance of targeted, timely and graduated responses.

**Authors**

Hayley Boxall, Australian Institute of Criminology
Anthony Morgan, Australian Institute of Criminology
Rick Brown, Australian Institute of Criminology
Where have all the young offenders gone?

Rick Brown, Australian Institute of Criminology

Nationally in Australia there have been declines in volume crime of the type typically committed by young people. These declines have continued for more than a decade. Yet there is still considerable debate over what brought about this decline. This presentation will report the results of a study that aimed to compare the offending patterns of two cohorts of young people who were born a decade apart, either side of the start of the crime drop. The results show how the prevalence of offending has changed for different groups of young people. The study points towards certain explanations for the crime drop being more important than others.

Beyond the black stump: New approaches to responding to youth crime

Luke Butcher, James Cook University and Mission Australia

It is now well established that people who live in rural communities in Australia experience higher rates of social and economic disadvantage than those who live in metropolitan areas. As a result of globalisation and the mining boom, Australia has been described as no longer ‘riding on the sheep’s back’, with economic power moving to state, national and international markets, leaving rural Australia in decline. Depopulation in rural Australia continues to increase, largely as a result of a lack of employment opportunities, healthcare services, and education and further training opportunities, and it has been suggested that feelings of alienation among rural people are reflected in many voting for candidates not from the mainstream political parties. People in rural communities also report higher levels of domestic and family violence, child maltreatment and substance abuse than their city-dwelling peers. Surprisingly little research has been conducted exploring how these
environmental factors may translate to particular offending risks and needs as a product of geographic isolation. Using the social determinants of health theory as a basis, this presentation explores a conceptual framework for understanding juvenile offending in rural communities, discussions on methodological frameworks to test this model, and discussions on implications on how services are procured and provided in rural communities.
Where the Rubber Hits the Road: Facilitating and maintaining effective partnerships in crime prevention

Ray Carroll, National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) was established in 1999 by all Australian governments and the insurance industry to reduce the rate of motor vehicle theft, which was among the highest of all Western developed nations.

Businesses, government agencies and motorists can all play an important role in vehicle theft prevention, but few see this as a core responsibility. In the face of many competing priorities the NMVTRC has successfully harnessed the expertise and resources of Australian police services, transport agencies, motor manufacturers, insurance companies, motor trades, motoring associations and governments to deliver a comprehensive, nationally aligned group of strategies that have contributed to a 60 percent reduction in vehicle theft.

By maintaining this stakeholder commitment over a long period of time the NMVTRC has facilitated over $400 million of investment by the corporate and government sectors and taken the concept of crime prevention partnerships to an unprecedented level in Australia.

This presentation outlines the philosophy and processes used by the NMVTRC to achieve best practice crime prevention through consultation, coordinated policy development, research and evaluation to build and sustain Australia’s capacity for vehicle theft reform.
Youth Partnership Project: Merging theory with practice

Karina Chicote, Save the Children

The Youth Partnership Project (YPP) is a place-based collective impact initiative bringing a diverse cross-section of government agencies, NGOs and community together to develop a better youth justice early intervention system. It was initiated in 2014 in direct response to youth crime and antisocial behaviour in the south east corridor of Perth. Lots had been tried to combat these problems, but statistics were not improving. Recognising youth justice is a shared problem—not the responsibility of any one agency—the community needed a shared solution.

This presentation explores three phases of the YPP’s development in translating evidence into practice. Initially, the focus was on gathering data to get a comprehensive picture of the situation for young people in the local area and services that support them. Last April, the Change the Story report was published, where youth-focused data from across government departments was disaggregated by local government area and mapped against available services for the first time. This helped comprehensively define the problem and identify resources.

Next, evidence was triangulated to formulate the solution. Co-design was used to further understand youth justice issues and the justice system from the perspective of young people’s lived experience. Conversations with practitioners discussed challenges faced by the system which prevent young people being effectively supported. Lastly, comments from young people and the sector were linked with well-grounded evidence from a range of disciplines—including criminology, community psychology and neurology—leading to the development of the Youth Intervention Partnership (YIP) model.

Now the YPP is piloting the YIP model, creating further evidence for a better youth justice early intervention system. This evidence is continually assessed by YPP partners, ensuring there is robust and consistent data to inform the ongoing development of the YIP Model, and providing evidence for place-based adaptability into other communities.
Police perspectives of CPTED

Garner Clancey, University of Sydney

New South Wales Police Force Crime Prevention Officers (CPOs) play an important role in crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED). Since the introduction of CPTED Guidelines in New South Wales in 2001, CPOs have reviewed development applications referred to them from their local councils. To date, there has been little scholarly engagement with this work. To address this gap, 36 CPOs were surveyed and interviewed. Findings suggest that CPOs felt their engagement in the planning and development process was often tokenistic. CPOs stated that they received limited feedback from councils as to whether their CPTED recommendations had been implemented. Whilst CPOs found the four-day Safer by Design course useful, they bemoaned the lack of comprehensive training and continuing professional development opportunities available to them to increase their skills and confidence when working alongside built environment professionals. These and other findings from this research will be discussed, as will potential policy implications.

Authors
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Translating evidence into practice: ReBoot Intensive Intervention Trial

Leanne Cornell-March, Helping Young People Achieve

The ReBoot Intensive Intervention Trial (RIIT), funded by the South Australian Attorney General’s Department in 2016–18, developed and measured a crime reduction model for 80 young people engaged in the justice system. The model intended to show reduced offending behaviour and an increase in positive behaviours. This was done by addressing the reasons young people offend and increasing their prosocial engagement in education, training or employment and healthy participation in their community.
Delivered through a partnership with Helping Young People Achieve and the Australian Red Cross, the theoretical approach of the RIIT was to combine therapeutic criminogenic focused intensive case management with peer mentoring and participation in a wilderness adventure program. The RIIT was supported by a process and outcome evaluation conducted by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) and delivered through partnerships with the Courts Administration Authority (Youth Court and Family Conference Team) and the SA Department for Communities and Social Inclusion Youth Justice Directorate.

This presentation will reflect on the implementation of the program, the process for the development of the RIIT model, and the successes and challenges experienced when translating evidence on ‘what works’ for younger aged offenders into practice. The presentation will consider the unique combination of case management and mentoring as core components, and what was learned about how best to include a wilderness component. The model will be discussed with reflection on the literature, the experience of participants and their families, and agency partners of the RIIT, and conclude with implications for future models targeting young people with an offending history. The presentation will be complimented by a presentation of evaluation findings by AIC following this session.

Authors
Leanne Cornell-March, Helping Young People Achieve
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It takes a village: Evaluating the impact of a multidisciplinary/family systems model for effectively working with children and young people with problematic or harmful sexual behaviour

James Dale, Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault
Belinda Powell, Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault

Research into children and young people who exhibit problematic or harmful sexual behaviour highlights the detrimental impact of early adverse childhood experiences and trauma. The Sexually Abusive Behaviours Treatment Service (SABTS) at Gippsland Centre against Sexual Assault aims to deliver innovative and individualised evidence-based assessment and intervention to children, young people, and their families. Using a multidisciplinary approach, specialist clinicians and family support workers partner with police and child protection services to deliver targeted and effective interventions, underpinned by trauma-informed and systems-based practices.

By involving the young person’s caregivers in therapeutic interventions, the program has demonstrated substantial gains in domains including emotion regulation, development of social skills with peers and adults, cessation of concerning sexualised behaviours, physical and psychological safety, and reduced program attrition. Further, this model has achieved increased family harmony and communication, and improved school engagement.
In turn, these outcomes have been shown to be crucial in the successful fulfilment of statutory requirements, such as completion of therapeutic treatment orders, and retaining the young person in the family home. Collaboration with partner agencies ensures clear and consistent communication across agencies and with families, and the development of shared strategies and goals to support the young person to desist their behaviours of concern.

This presentation will explore the Family Support Service embedded within SABTS, and detail the impact and outcomes of adopting this model in therapeutic approaches to reduce or eliminate the incidence of children and young people engaging in problematic or harmful sexualised behaviours.

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Implementing an evidence-based evaluation tool: Enhancing services to prevent further offending

India de Vienne, Queensland Youth Justice
Karla Petersen, Queensland Youth Justice

Since 2016, Queensland Youth Justice has been implementing the unique Standardised Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP™). It bridges the gap between research and practice of therapeutic program delivery for young people involved the youth justice system to reduce the likelihood of further offending.

The SPEP™ was developed by world-renowned youth justice expert and contributor to the evidence base, Dr Mark Lipsey from Vanderbilt University, and his team, Dr Gabrielle Chapman and Dr Jill Robinson.
It is a validated rating system used to determine how well therapeutic brand name and locally developed programs match the most effective practice as found in the research. The rating protocol is based on a meta-analysis of over 500 controlled studies of youth justice interventions, and identifies four core components of program delivery as best indicators of expected program performance. These four core components inform targeted recommendations for practice enhancement to build local and organisational capacity to deliver the most effective programs.

The SPEP™ is designed to promote education and transparency among stakeholders in the juvenile justice system and to promote sustainable change from within by identifying both local and system-wide opportunities for improvement.

This was recognised as an important initiative in the 2016 Independent Review of Youth Detention Centres in Queensland. Queensland is the first jurisdiction outside of the US to implement the SPEP™ and wishes to share early learnings and observations about implementing program delivery using the framework in the Australian context.

**Radicalisation and terrorism in an Australian context:**
**Translating 15 years of evidence into practice**

Margarita Dimaksyan, Federation University Australia

Radicalisation is a global issue, particularly exacerbated by the emergence of Daesh. The rise and growth of this terrorist organisation has resulted in an increasing number of individuals being radicalised and committing or attempting to commit terrorist acts. Radicalisation and terrorism are explored in this presentation, drawing on data gleaned from 180 individual cases of Australian residents or citizens who were involved in terrorism between 2001 and 2016.
In the context of these case studies, this presentation examines three key areas to inform how evidence from a 15-year period can be translated into practice. First, profile-related characteristics are analysed, highlighting the attributes and demographics of the individuals who have been involved in terrorism in Australia. Second, the motives that led to these individuals becoming radicalised and the reasons for their involvement in terrorism are examined. Here, particular emphasis is placed on ideological motivations due to their prevalence among the sample. Third, the presentation considers the means by which these individuals became radicalised, focusing especially on the roles played by the internet, social media and face-to-face contact.

Applying a ‘one size fits all’ approach to radicalisation is an inadequate means of addressing it: no single profile can reliably predict who will become radicalised. Likewise, there are a multitude of push and pull factors that can play a role in the process and no specific pathway that predicts the chances of an individual’s involvement in terrorism. Greater consideration needs to be given to a range of underlying issues, many of which rest outside the criminal justice framework, if radicalisation is going to be prevented successfully.

The complexities and challenges of building safer communities through a community development model that focuses on the engagement of men in the prevention of violence against women

Liam Dooley, White Ribbon Australia

This presentation considers the history, challenges and progress of an accountable model of community development focused on building safer communities through community engagement, upskilling and implementing tools to facilitate change. It will outline the history and journey of change over 15 years to engage men across Australia to be part of a collaborative solution, be accountable and take responsibility (not ownership) for ending men’s violence against women.
The presentation will highlight the complexity of the space; the broader community must be engaged to drive positive social change, particularly men who might not reflect on or make links between gender inequality and violence.

This is challenging work. White Ribbon is about being accessible and solution focused, taking men on a journey, helping men be active (not silent), supporting reflective thinking and always assuring accountability across this work.

The presentation will focus on the following main areas related to male engagement and the relationship to community development. It will include:

1. White Ribbon’s journey of development;
2. development of male engagement programs and their link to community development;
3. the Ambassador program and building accountability;
4. programs across workplaces, schools and youth settings that are building safer communities; and
5. the theory of social change evidenced through independent evaluation and action.

The engagement of men in the prevention of violence is complex and this presentation will provide an open and transparent lens to the movement’s multifaceted work.

It will focus on how gaps have been identified and addressed, for example in the Ambassador program, since inception.

As a community owned and driven initiative, risks are inevitable and will continue to be. However, White Ribbon’s role is ensuring these are managed safely, and in response to feedback, evaluation and evidence.

Author
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Using technology to enhance the impact of protection orders for domestic violence

Christopher Dowling, Australian Institute of Criminology

Protection orders are a common legal response to domestic violence in Australia, and unique among other legal responses in their emphasis on the prevention of future harm over the punishment of past harm. Police have a crucial role to play in the enforcement of protection orders through the investigation of breaches, and are increasingly taking responsibility for the issuing of orders. Recent research indicates that while protection orders can reduce the likelihood of domestic violence revictimisation, particularly in the short term, their effectiveness varies based on a number of victim, perpetrator, incident and legal factors.

Recognising the circumstances under which protection orders are likely to be less effective, and breaches more difficult to enforce, can assist in identifying cases where police may need to implement additional supplementary measures to overcome any contextual obstacles. Critically, a growing body of literature is examining a number of law enforcement technologies, such as GPS and electronic monitoring, personal safety devices, and inter-agency information sharing platforms, which are increasingly being used by police to expedite and enhance the impact of their work. Drawing on this literature, along with primary research undertaken by the Australian Institute of Criminology, this presentation explores how and to what extent these technologies can enhance the preventative efficacy of protection orders and improve the police response to breaches.
Turning the corner: Translating evidence into practice

Jason Fagg, Bravehearts

What makes Australia’s leading child protection agency—with an active, nationwide contribution to the provision of child sexual assault services—establish a program working with adolescents who engage in harmful sexual behaviour? The answer is ‘prevention’. Braveheart’s mission is to prevent child sexual assault from occurring in the first place and to ensure timely and appropriate responses and redress when it does occur. Research has shown that approximately 30 to 60 percent of childhood sexual assault is perpetrated by other children and young people. This also formed part of the work undertaken by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Hence, working with young people who engage in harmful sexual behaviours was considered by the organisation as imperative to realising the vision of making Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child.

As part of its holistic continuum of prevention, Bravehearts established a program in 2016 called Turning Corners, which is a comprehensive and integrated response to young people (12 years to under 18 years of age) who have engaged in, or are at risk of engaging in, harmful sexual behaviours. It is only relatively recently (perhaps the past decade) that there has been growing recognition that adolescents who engage in harmful sexual behaviours are
different from adults who sexually offend and that outcomes for young people with harmful sexual behaviours are generally positive. This presentation is a collaboration between Bravehearts and the University of the Sunshine Coast and presents the key findings from a short-term evaluation of the Turning Corners program, during its first 18 months of operation, with a focus on recommendations for improving service provision for young people who sexually harm.

Authors
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Police legitimacy: The role of migrant perceptions from ‘back home’

Helen Forbes-Mewett, Monash University

Police legitimacy has been demonstrated to have implications for community cooperation and compliance with police. A perception that the police are legitimate increases trust, forming the basis of a partnership between police and communities. This framework makes policing easier, ensuring resources allocated for law and order can go further.

This presentation draws on a study which investigated the legitimacy of Victoria Police in one Police Services Area in Melbourne—the Monash Local Government Area (LGA). Through six focus groups, 18 interviews and one email response with 31 individuals, perceptions of Victoria Police among the communities of Monash were collated. These were then analysed in the context of police legitimacy, trust and community propensity to cooperate with police.
Monash had seen declining results in the official government survey in the indicators that assessed police legitimacy over the past decade. It was anticipated that detailed qualitative data would illuminate why this might be the case. Most research in this field is undertaken quantitatively, which made the current study a rare example of an in-depth approach yielding rich data through qualitative research.

One of the key findings of the study was that ethnic diversity and migrant status were significant factors that influenced community perceptions of the legitimacy of Victoria Police in Monash. Demographic change was marked in Monash LGA over the preceding decade, including increasing ethnic diversity in the population and a shift in migration patterns from predominantly European to migrants from east and south Asia. This presentation argues that migrant status is an under-researched element that informs perceptions of the police. Given that migrants make up a significant cohort of Australia’s population, this element should not be ignored.

Authors
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Yarra Communities That Care: Using data to develop and implement an action plan for the middle years

Alexandra Fraser, City of Yarra
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Heidi Renner, Deakin University

Communities That Care (CTC) is an evidence-based framework that empowers communities to work together to address issues facing their young people. CTC commenced in the City of Yarra in 2015 and involves 24 partner agencies working together towards
the shared vision: ‘To enhance the healthy development of children, young people, and their families in Yarra through evidence based collaborative planning, action and evaluation’.

Yarra CTC has been implemented using an evidence-based and data driven approach, including at the initial planning phase, during the development of the action plan, and throughout its evaluation.

During the planning phase, Yarra CTC collected robust health and wellbeing information on over 630 year 6 and year 8 middle years students (8–14 years) from 17 schools across Yarra in 2015. The CTC partnership worked together to understand the survey results, examine other locally available datasets, and identify priority areas requiring action. Three key priorities emerged from this process:

1. reducing underage alcohol and other drug use;
2. improving personal resilience; and
3. strengthening family relationships and management.

To develop an action plan in response to the priorities, a number of relevant and evidence-based programs were considered by the CTC partnership. In total, six evidence-based programs were selected, all of which have been implemented since 2016.

While the subject of this presentation is CTC as a crime prevention partnership, particular focus will be given to underage alcohol use. ‘Smart Generation’ is an evidence-based program implemented by Yarra CTC to reduce adolescent alcohol consumption through educating communities, adolescents and parents and providing strategies to reduce underage alcohol consumption.

The evaluation of Yarra CTC involves the collection of implementation and impact data across all its programs. Initial findings from the Smart Generation program evaluation highlight some positive early results.
An examination of the utility of criminal curfews as a policy response to youth crime in Australia

Terry Goldsworthy, Bond University

Curfews have been put forward as a solution to youth crime problems in several Australian jurisdictions. During Queensland’s 2017 election campaign the Liberal National Party said it would trial a curfew banning children under the age of 16 from being on some Townsville streets without adult supervision after 10 pm. This announcement referred to the claimed success of the introduction of a youth curfew in the Western Australian suburb of Northbridge in 2003. Such policies have been criticised for net widening and criminalising non-criminal behaviour.

This presentation will examine the policy context behind such crime prevention strategies and will use police data to argue that such strategies produce marginal results at best. The presentation will examine the use of curfews overseas and their outcomes, and then present possible alternative solutions to the use of blanket youth curfews.

The potential of Justice Reinvestment to build safer communities

Jill Guthrie, Australian National University

Justice Reinvestment (JR) is an innovative policy idea that is gaining traction in Australia. JR can be conceived of as both a philosophy for justice reform and a set of strategies that seek to
examine incarceration spending. JR diverts funding that would typically be spent on incarceration and reinvests it into health and social interventions with the objective of reducing offending in the sociodemographic groups and communities that disproportionately contribute to prison populations. JR is predicated on an understanding that over-incarceration impacts communities in ways that perpetuate cycles of crime. As a systems-based approach, JR encompasses a comprehensive range of service provision areas such as health, housing, employment, justice, family support, mental health and alcohol and other drug use services. It impels policymakers to consider the implications of current punitive policies that result in higher levels of incarceration—particularly of Indigenous Australians—and to consider how funding could instead be directed towards addressing the social determinants of incarceration. Crime and incarceration inflicts considerable social and economic burdens on offenders, their families and their communities. There are therefore compelling social justice and economic arguments in favour of tackling this serious public policy issue.

This presentation explores the work that has taken place in Cowra, New South Wales, a town of 10,000 people situated on Wiradjuri land in the state electorate of Cootamundra and federal electorate of Hume, where the entire community—Indigenous and non-Indigenous—represented by stakeholders from health, education, housing, employment and criminal justice, participated in a series of community workshops to develop strategies for diverting a portion of criminal justice spending towards better investment in the wellbeing of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth.

Authors
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Michael Levy, ACT Health
Perceptions of residential burglary and attitudes to crime reporting in Victoria: Crime rates, perceptions and reporting in two high-crime areas

Alistair Harkness, Federation University Australia
Craig Gillard, Victoria Police

Previous Australian research identifies a mismatch between perceptions of crime victimisation and crime rates, and that this discrepancy has impacts on policy, policing procedures, resourcing and feelings of community vulnerability. The impacts of incidents of residential burglary are both economic and social, the latter of which is amplified by perceptions of possible future victimisation.

Safety Alliance Victoria, a partnership between Victoria Police, Neighbourhood Watch Victoria, Crime Stoppers Victoria, the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria and Federation University, was formed in 2017 to coordinate and evaluate a series of pilot projects to tackle residential burglary in Victoria. The Alliance is investigating ways to reduce the likelihood of people becoming victims of property crime, enhance perceptions of safety, deter offending and provide police with valuable investigative options.

The first of four pilots is a crime prevention trial entitled ‘Protect / Prevent’ that involves the deployment of SelectaDNA property-marking technology to 1,000 homes in two Victorian communities—the Greater Geelong and Whittlesea Shire local government areas—experiencing higher than average residential burglary rates, and the comparison of these households with 1,000 more in two control groups with similar demographic and housing characteristics and burglary offence rates.
The aims of this presentation are two-fold. First, it will consider the innovative multi-agency approach which has been adopted by Safety Alliance Victoria. Second, it reports on and assesses results from surveys conducted in the two target and two control group vicinities, providing a demographic overlay. It provides results of parametric testing on a series of Likert scale questions which enable a comparative analysis of concerns about crime, victimisation and crime reporting behaviours in the context of the pilot project.

Contributors
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Domestic and family violence deaths in Queensland
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Domestic and family violence homicides are one of the most preventable forms of death, due to pervasive patterns of abusive behaviours present in many cases which bring victims and offenders into contact with general and specialist services. The Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit (DFVDRU) was established in 2011 within the Coroners Court of Queensland, as a cross-agency partnership to provide expert advice and assistance to coroners in their investigation of domestic and family violence related homicides and suicides. The DFVDRU maintains a database of all homicides within an intimate partner or family relationship from 2006. This presentation will provide a statistical overview of findings from this dataset, including demographic information, service system contact and a preliminary exploration of lethality risk indicators within intimate partner homicides.
Graffiti management partnership

John Hennessy, Municipal Association of Victoria

In 2016–17, a group of councils and other stakeholders (including Victoria Police, Public Transport Victoria, VicRoads, Department of Justice, utilities, public transport operators) established the Graffiti Management Working Group and requested that the Municipal Association of Victoria coordinate activities. The broad objectives of the group are:

• to manage and minimise the impact of graffiti;
• to move from a reactive (removal) to a proactive (prevention) position;
• to achieve a consistent framework across the whole of local government;
• to identify good practice and share knowledge across local government;
• to develop a common database across local government;
• to coordinate a partnership approach (including MOUs) with utilities and other relevant stakeholders; and
• to review existing legislation.

In 2017 the group also conducted a survey of Victorian councils in relation to graffiti and the results included:

• 82 percent stated graffiti is seen as a problem by council and the community;
• 61 percent stated the problem is growing; and
• 55 percent of councils stated they have an up-to-date policy and strategy to manage graffiti.

The group has developed an action plan, including the development of a statewide Graffiti Management Strategy.
HaiR-3Rs (Recognise, Respond and Refer): family violence training for hairdressers

Youna Kim, Eastern Domestic Violence Service

Jenny Jackson, Eastern Domestic Violence Service

HaiR-3Rs (Recognise, Respond and Refer) aims to promote gender equality by:

- educating hairdressers to understand the link between gender inequality and family violence;
- supporting hairdressers to champion and engage in conversations that challenge community attitudes that reinforce gender inequality; and
- supporting hairdressers to respond to family violence disclosures and refer to family violence services.

Research reveals women develop unique, trusting bonds with their hairdressers. This relationship can lead to sharing beliefs and knowledge about gender inequality and experience of violence.

An international review in Canada, the USA, New Zealand and Puerto Rico has found high levels of success in shifting community attitudes that support gender inequality.

Eastern Domestic Violence Service (EDVOS) is the specialist family violence service in Melbourne’s eastern metropolitan region. EDVOS provides a broad range of integrated services to support women and children who are experiencing family violence.

EDVOS plans to pilot the training in the Yarra Ranges and expand across Melbourne’s eastern region. There is a long view to develop the program across the state and nationwide.
Following the national primary prevention framework, HaiR-3Rs operates in a familiar, comfortable setting outside the conventional family violence sector. It engages people in all demographic groups, from all cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, of all ages and genders, and in urban and rural locations.

EDVOS is collaborating with the USA Professional Beauty Association, the National CUT IT OUT® program provider in the USA and the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women and Children at the University of Ontario in Canada, the leading peak research body in the prevention of violence against women and children. National and local providers including Box Hill TAFE, the Yarra Ranges City Council, Australian Hairdressing Council and Hair & Beauty Industry Association are collaborating in the HaiR-3Rs project in eastern Melbourne.
Addressing both real and perceived crime to create a safer City of Logan

Keely Larsen, Logan City Council
Elyse Morrison, Logan City Council

Logan City Council’s Community Safety Program is committed to creating a safer Logan through the delivery of the City of Logan Safe City Strategy and Action Plan.

Council’s Community Safety Program places a large emphasis on research to ensure initiatives are delivered accurately and meet the needs of the community. Both quantitative and qualitative evidence gathered by council from the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and through the council’s Safe City Logan community survey provide sound evidence to inform council of crime occurring within the city, as well as the community’s perception of crime.

Council analyses the QPS information at a divisional level for Logan City (total of 12) and uses it in the development of divisional crime profiles. Subsequently, these profiles identify the crime types, suburbs and demographics that should be targeted through crime prevention activities, in each division, for the year ahead.

The Safe City Logan community survey is undertaken annually and encourages residents to have their say on crime and safety within Logan. Results are collated into a key findings report, and key actions for the city are identified for delivery in the following year. Divisional reports are also compiled based on these results and outline specific actions required to tackle those divisional issues throughout the following year.
Using the QPS data and survey results, council delivers a minimum of six targeted activities per division annually. Council also uses this evidence to deliver specialised programs in Logan’s priority development areas, with the aim of increasing community connectivity, while also addressing emerging safety issues as they arise.

Key performance indicators outlined in the strategy and action plan and in individual project plans are used to evaluate the success of each initiative and to identify improvements for future initiatives. This information is consolidated and reported quarterly to elected members and the community via council committee.

**Intervening to alter high-risk behaviours in young recidivist offenders: Outcomes from the evaluation of the ReBoot Intensive Intervention Trial**

Samantha Lyneham, Australian Institute of Criminology

The ReBoot Intensive Intervention Trial was introduced in Adelaide, South Australia to support young people aged 14 to 18 years who have a history of offending and are at risk of escalating their involvement in the youth and adult criminal justice systems.

The primary aims of the program are to reduce offending and antisocial behaviours, increase engagement in education and employment, and increase engagement in structured, prosocial activities. These aims are delivered through intensive case management provided by Helping Young People Achieve, peer mentoring provided by the Australian Red Cross and a wilderness camp provided by the Operation Flinders Foundation. To be eligible, the young person must have committed at least two offences and be residing in metropolitan Adelaide.
This presentation describes the outcomes from an evaluation undertaken by the Australian Institute of Criminology for the South Australian Attorney-General’s Department between 2015 and 2017. An assessment of the program’s impact suggests it has produced moderate but positive outcomes in relation to desistance from offending, support access, physical health, and family and peer relationships, but has had a lesser impact on improved decision-making and severity and frequency of offending (for those who continued to offend). These findings indicate that the program has been successful in modifying the attitudes of young people, rather than initiating behavioural change.

By focusing on changes in young people’s attitudes and actions over the length of program engagement, the presentation examines the program’s utility for intervening to alter high-risk behaviours in young offenders, and offers lessons for similar programs aiming to alter offending and antisocial behaviours in young recidivist offenders.
Wyndham City recognises that community safety is much broader than the presence or absence of crime

Kim McAliney, Wyndham City Council

Wyndham City recognises that community safety is much broader than the presence or absence of crime. The council is committed to creating cohesive and strong communities and acknowledges this needs to be delivered by working in partnership with multiple agencies and stakeholders including our community.

As part of Wyndham’s 2040 vision, council collected 2,040 stories about Wyndham from our local residents. Wyndham’s young residents identified that the community has changed dramatically, expanding at a rapid rate and becoming increasingly diverse. The nature of this growth highlights the importance of creating neighbourhoods that are connected and able to interact with each other.

Wyndham City Council has created a Safer Communities Portfolio Committee, chaired by a councillor with membership from key partner organisations (state, not for profit and service providers) alongside five community members. The committee has an agreed work plan to deliver key activities over the year and is also able to respond to emerging issues. In addition, the council, in partnership with Victoria Police, Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch, has commenced quarterly meetings with Local Neighbourhood Watch groups.

These initiatives have assisted in reaching a common understanding of the local crime statistics, discussing recorded crime versus the perception of crime, delivering consistent social media messages across the multiple platforms, sharing initiatives that are being
piloted in different locations and the learnings from those, and developing more efficient communication methods across partner organisations. Partners have been able to have broader conversation regarding young people in our community and identified a range of inclusive actions such as out of hours activities, outreach services, safe spaces for young people, community engagement activities and advocacy opportunities.

A collaborative approach with multiple stakeholders ensured council was well placed to develop a considered response to the media attention on crime in the western suburbs over summer in early 2018.

**Flipping public space in Casey**

**Mark McGuire, City of Casey**

Over the past four years, four projects have been delivered with the aim of increasing positive perceptions of safety. This was done by identifying residents’ concerns and by working with local community and stakeholders to redesign their local public spaces with safety and amenity in mind.

Casey has been very successful in receiving state government public safety infrastructure funds for delivering good quality outcomes.

This presentation sums up the great work led by Mark McGuire and supported by many others in council with funds from the Victorian Government. This project approach was externally evaluated by the Australian Institute of Criminology and provides evidence of improved public safety outcomes.
Enhanced response to child sexual exploitation: Redefining police response to vulnerable child victims of sexual offending

Laura Meese, Victoria Police

The Enhanced Response Model is a joint initiative between Victoria Police and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. This innovative, research informed approach seeks to identify children who are at risk or experiencing child sexual exploitation (CSE), assign a police investigator in the absence of a formal victim statement, formalise joint planning and responsibility, and prioritise disruption activities that hold perpetrators to account.

This is a significant shift in policing as the response commences in the absence of a victim statement or disclosure on the basis of practitioner complaint or evidence. Policing CSE is difficult for a number of reasons: CSE is not a crime in its own right, victims are often groomed into believing they are in a loving relationship, and victims often have complex and tenuous relationships with police (history of family violence, other victimisation, their own offending and going missing). Policing and prosecuting CSE offences are also impacted by the existing complexities of broader sexual assault offending.

This approach has demonstrated an increase in safety for children, namely 55 percent of children had a decrease in their risk of CSE; a 49% reduction in offending by children; increased engagement and more positive relationships with police; and an increase in reporting of sexual offences to police. The approach has also positively impacted offender behaviour with 83 percent of all persons of interest ceasing or significantly reducing contact with children and 82 percent of offenders attracting more police attention.
In addition to the formal results, the pilot has contributed to a significant shift in police role, meaningful collaboration with child protection, member work satisfaction and understanding of the welfare system. The approach was recently highlighted in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse final report. This presentation will focus on the success, challenges and future directions of this approach.

Authors
Laura Meese, Victoria Police
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Police use of public space CCTV footage

Anthony Morgan, Australian Institute of Criminology

Despite support from police for the use of CCTV, and its popularity in public places, there has been limited research into the use of CCTV by police for investigative purposes.

This presentation will draw together findings from two studies on the use of CCTV footage by police. The first study attempted to better understand police demand for CCTV footage from the NSW rail network, analysing the patterns and predictors of police requests for footage. The second was a national study of the use of CCTV by local councils in public places that focused on the relationship between camera operators and local police.

The results showed there was a high demand for CCTV footage. But there were a range of factors associated with increased use of footage by police. These included the type of offence being investigated, characteristics of the locations in which the CCTV cameras were installed, the presence of other types of surveillance and monitoring arrangements.

This research can help to inform the design, layout and management of CCTV systems on public transport and in other public places.
**Increasing the Odds for Safety and Respect: Addressing the link between gambling and violence against women**

*Sandra Morris, Women’s Health In the North*

The presentation will focus on the findings of the ‘Increasing the Odds for Safety and Respect Project’. This project applied a gendered lens to the coexistence of family violence and gambling and developed community awareness and prevention resources, including the ‘50-50’ digital resource and supporting notes. The project focused on preventing violence against women by addressing the drivers of family violence. It applied primary prevention thinking to working with men who are gambling and who are displaying violence-supportive attitudes and behaviours. It focused on working with men in the pre-contemplative stage and challenging their justification, minimisation, blame shifting, and excusing their use of power and control. A key project finding was that to improve policing and criminal justice responses to women, it is necessary to increase crime professionals’ knowledge of the link between family violence and gambling.

Current Australian research indicates that people who experience significant problems with their gambling are more likely than people with no gambling problems to be victims and perpetrators of family violence. Family violence is three times more likely to occur in families where there is problem gambling than in families in which there are no gambling problems. Furthermore, over half of people with gambling problems report perpetrating physical violence against their children. Anecdotally we know women are coerced into crime to pay gambling related debt by partners. A recent Victorian study found a link between electronic gaming machines (EGM) accessibility and police-recorded family violence. Postcodes with no EGMs recorded 20 percent fewer family violence incidents and 30 percent fewer family violence assaults, when compared with postcodes with 75 EGMs per 10,000 people.

The workshop will explore all these issues and use the ‘50-50’ digital resource as a discussion prompt.
**Act@Work: Workplace culture change in the Grampians region**

Melissa Morris, Women’s Health Grampians

**Background**

The Act@Work program is a primary prevention approach designed for workplaces to increase knowledge of sexism, discrimination and violence against women. The program was developed to address the underlying causes of violence and challenge community attitudes and cultures that support violence against women. The program takes action at the organisational level and also equips bystanders to intervene safely and effectively.

**Methods**

Act@Work is delivered in the workplace over a six-month period and involves a number of key steps including a baseline survey of staff measuring attitudes and opinions; an organisational needs assessment; delivery of training sessions; development of an action and communications plan; and a follow-up survey to assess changes in attitudes and willingness to take bystander action. Training sessions are co-facilitated by female and male trainers. A wide range of resources are provided to organisations to assist in this work.

**Relevance**

This program is relevant to all workplaces. Two out of three women that report family violence incidents are in paid employment. Act@Work addresses workplace culture, the physical environment of workplaces, community connections and health and wellbeing of staff. Act@Work is a flexible program and responds to each organisation’s structures and processes.
Conclusion

Since its commencement, 16 organisations in western Victoria have undertaken or signed up to undertake Act@Work. Evaluation of the program shows that there is a shift in a range of key indicators including percentages of participants who thought telling sexist jokes was never OK in social and work settings and the percentage of participants who would be willing take action in various situations. Examples of the benefits of the program and some of the actions that organisations have undertaken will be shared. An organisation that has undertaken the Act@Work program will present their actions and benefits.

Authors
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Empowering communities to help tackle incitement

Andre Oboler, La Trobe University

The use of social media by groups with extremist ideologies can create a feedback loop in which dangerous messages are both repeated and strengthened. Within this echo chamber, the risk of the narrative switching to incitement is increased. The use of counter-narratives that undermine the messaging of extremism is well recognised. To be effective, counter-narratives need to be targeted to messages that are currently circulating and they need to respond to them when they are fresh, before these narratives take hold. This has traditionally been done by academics using slow manual methods to find, document and analyse the data they manage to collect. Due to the effort required, sample sizes are small.

The Online Hate Prevention Institute began using such manual methods back in 2012 and in parallel developed software based on crowdsourcing to more rapidly collect, classify and verify various forms of hate and extremism in social media. This work has produced significant data which have been presented in international forums including at the UN in New York and cited in a Special Rapporteur’s report to the UN Human Rights Council. In a new phase to this work, the approach has been flipped with the tool for crowdsourcing being provided not centrally but through different communities who will also have live access to the data their community are reporting.
This new approach builds resilience and capacity within communities, reducing the risk of individuals being pulled towards opposing forms of extremism. It also allows centralised compilation of data so a more complex and more timely picture of the current, and ever changing, narratives of hate can be discovered and counter-speech solutions crafted. This research considers this new approach, which is equally driven by technologically and communities.

Authors
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Community around the child: What have we learnt about children in residential care?

Renee O’Donnell, Monash University

Young adults living in out-of-home care (OoHC, eg residential care or foster care) are considered to be some of the most vulnerable young people in our community. With their childhoods typically characterised by neglect and/or maltreatment, these young people often develop maladaptive coping mechanisms to manage their complex trauma, including drug and alcohol misuse, and violent and offending behaviour. Subsequently, young people in OoHC are significantly over-represented in the juvenile justice system and, without appropriate intervention, often develop complex and serious criminal records.

Stemming from the larger scale Life Story project, a training program termed ‘community around the child’ was developed to help Victorian Police members intervene and support young people in residential OoHC, in an informed way. As part of this training, several all-day workshops were held to educate police members on what complex trauma is and how to manage and defuse challenging behaviour by young people who present with complex trauma. Twelve months after
the training was disseminated a number of focus group sessions were held to evaluate the ‘community around the child’ workshops. Participants in the focus groups varied in terms of their age, years of service and position (eg from constables to superintendents). The findings of the evaluation to date revealed that under the provision of support and adequate training resources, the sampled police members were able to make more considered judgement calls in terms of arrests and charges of young people in residential OoHC. These findings have significant implications for reducing the high rate of juvenile justice reports among youth living in OoHC.

Authors
Renee O’Donnell, Monash University
Helen Skouteris, Monash University
Richard Watkins, James Cooke
Mick Hastings, Victoria Police

Summer in Alice school holiday campaign: Keeping our young people safe

Liz Olle, Northern Territory Government

This presentation addresses key lessons drawn from the 2017–18 Summer in Alice through an external evaluation and the experiences of stakeholders, and examines how these might be implemented in youth policy development.

Youth crime and antisocial behaviour are issues that generate public concern for residents of Alice Springs. Many community members believe the level of youth-related antisocial behaviour and crime is linked to school holidays, especially the longer mid-year and end-of-year holidays.
In the 2017–18 summer holidays a $250,000 Summer in Alice Action Plan and school holiday campaign saw the Northern Territory Government and the NGO and private sectors working together to reduce youth antisocial and criminal behaviour in the most comprehensive summer community safety plan seen in Alice Springs.

The action plan ensured an integrated coordination infrastructure and agreed response capacity across all stakeholders for the summer school holiday period. The campaign maintained targeted young people’s access to and involvement in safe, structured and constructive activities that keep them engaged and ‘off the streets’, and provided appropriate referrals and support to those assessed as being at risk and requiring therapeutic or more structured support.

Young people and their families made over 3,000 individual attendances at more than 230 funded activities in the eight-week campaign. Early assessments by NT Police of youth crime rates show a marked decline on the previous year.

An external evaluation of Summer in Alice sought the views of young people and their families who took part in the holiday campaign activities, analysed the governance and management of the campaign and available crime data, and took account of views and experiences of service providers, local business owners and traders through direct interviews, the and community through a review of media during the holiday period. The results will be summarised in this presentation.

**CCTV Partnership Program: Local government, WA Police Force and the community**

Mathew Owens, Town of Victoria Park

The Town of Victoria Park developed and implemented the CCTV Partnership Program in late 2017 to assist the community to install CCTV systems on their properties and provide valuable fields of view in strategic locations to the town and WA Police Force.
Local government owned and operated CCTV systems can be expensive projects with minimal evidence showing any crime reduction effectiveness. By empowering the community to install and maintain their own systems, similar outcomes can be reached for a fraction of the costs. Developing agreements between local police, the local government and these community members allows community ownership of this intervention.

This presentation will go through the background of the CCTV Partnership Program development including applying available CCTV research to the program, the implementation process, how to roll out a similar program in a local government area, and initial results and feedback from the program so far.
Applying behavioural insights to improve public policy

Kate Phillips, Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet
Fiona Grinwald, Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet

Most of what government does involves human behaviour. Governments have always created policies aimed at encouraging or discouraging behaviour. The field of behavioural insights draws from disciplines including behavioural economics and psychology to support government to better understand human behaviour. While we all like to believe that our decisions are well considered, behavioural science shows that we make most decisions automatically and our decisions are heavily influenced by the context in which they are made. Considering how people make decisions and use services enables government to design more accessible and effective public policy.

Behavioural insights uses field-based research and behavioural science literature to examine how small details that are not often incorporated into traditional policymaking (such as the order in which choices are presented) can produce very different outcomes in practice. Behavioural insights often also involves trialling behavioural interventions to ensure system improvements are evidence-informed, scaling up only the most efficient and effective.

This presentation will introduce behavioural insights, highlighting examples of how small changes can have large impacts on outcomes. It will illustrate this drawing on examples from communications, community safety (such as marking on roads) and crime prevention (such as body-worn cameras reducing use of force by police).
Assessing research and evidence on the ability of restorative justice to reduce youth offending

Ellie Piggott, Griffith University
William Wood, Griffith University

By 2001, restorative justice (RJ) programs for juvenile offenders had been legislated in every Australian state and territory. Since this time, there has been a growing interest among researchers, practitioners and policymakers regarding RJ’s ability to reduce reoffending. Despite continuing claims that RJ can lower post-intervention offending, studies examining the influence of RJ on recidivism have failed to report consistent findings. This presentation examines the strengths and limitations within existing RJ evaluation research. Mixed findings found within current RJ literature can be attributed to several factors, including substantial variation in study design, significant methodological shortcomings, and RJ’s definitional problem. From the examination of existing literature, this presentation aims to provide a concise but thorough explanation of the contradictory results reported in RJ evaluation research, with a focus on whether or not current evidence supports the claim that RJ can effectively reduce reoffending. It will conclude with a summary of the implications of the findings for practitioners and policymakers, and provide suggestions for how future research can overcome the limitations presented in order to inform and improve the practice of RJ.
The Court Integrated Services Program: Reducing reoffending through targeted interventions

Glenn Rutter, Magistrates’ Court of Victoria

The Court Integrated Services Program (CISP) is a court-based support program operating in the Magistrates’ Court of Victoria which addresses issues underlying offending behaviour. It works with accused persons who are on bail, summons or remand pending a bail hearing, and have health or social needs that contribute to their offending such as drug and alcohol addiction, homelessness, disability, mental health problems or social and cultural isolation. The program provides short-term case management (up to four months) and referral for therapeutic interventions to assist participants to address their needs prior to sentencing. CISP case managers provide regular feedback to magistrates on the progress of each participant. This monitoring ensures that participants are ‘kept in view’ by the court, with the aim of improving community safety. The CISP is a flexible model which has the capacity to respond quickly to changes in the population of accused who are appearing before the court. Commencing in 2006, the CISP operates at 14 court locations and supports approximately 2,000 participants per year, with plans to expand the program to additional locations in the near future.

In 2016 the CISP was a gold award winner in the community-led category of the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards.

This presentation will analyse program exit data and explore the recidivism characteristics of CISP participants in comparison to a matched cohort.
The Criminal Justice Diversion Program: Addressing offending behaviour in first-time offenders

Glenn Rutter, Magistrates’ Court of Victoria

The Criminal Justice Diversion Program (CJDP) is a state-wide program providing mainly first-time offenders with the opportunity to avoid a criminal record by undertaking conditions that benefit the offender, victim and community as a whole. Participation in the program reduces the likelihood of reoffending by tailoring a diversion plan to the needs of the accused.

The CJDP allows offenders to redress their low-level offending behaviour by undertaking and completing appropriate court imposed conditions, tailored to ensure victim involvement, reparation, community work, donations to charities and rehabilitation programs.

The uniqueness of the CJDP lies in its holistic approach to addressing offending behaviour in first-time offenders. The success of this approach is highlighted by the lack of reoffending and reduction in seriousness of offending in those who completed their diversion plan.

This paper will compare the recidivism rates of a random sample of CJDP participants who completed a diversion plan to a matched control cohort, highlighting the effectiveness and lasting effect of the program.

Authors
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Community Safety Networks Project: Building a shared approach to community safety in locally specific contexts

Leanne Sargent, Victoria Police
Paul Naylor, Victoria Police

The Community Safety Networks Project is being delivered in a partnership between the Department of Justice and Victoria Police. The project activities will establish Community Safety Networks in 12 priority communities to improve police engagement and provide opportunities for mutually beneficial communication in relation to community safety concerns and local policing priorities.

The Community Safety Networks Project is underpinned by the Victorian Government’s 2017 Community Safety Statement, which identifies five community safety priorities, one of which is ‘increasing connection to the community’ in order to:

- improve police engagement with local communities;
- improve community understanding about community safety and operational policing priorities;
- ensure communities feel listened to and involved in community safety planning; and
- incorporate the community’s safety priorities and information in police operational planning.
Community forums or engagement activities in each network location, and online via digital platforms, enable the community to raise the issues that are the highest priority for them. Police are exposed to the community’s concerns and suggestions from the community about how to address the most pressing of these. The findings from these engagements are then fed back into policing operational priorities where appropriate.

Project partners include the Crime Statistics Agency, Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Stoppers.

Evidence-based community crime prevention projects in each network offer an opportunity for community members to be involved and develop knowledge and skills in community crime prevention.

An evaluation of the Community Safety Networks Project aims to provide better understanding about police/community engagement and community safety in different local contexts.

Depending on findings from the project, the Community Safety Networks approach may provide a way forward for improving how local community safety concerns can be understood and incorporated into police operations.

**Author**
Rebecca Jolly, Victoria Police
Let us walk together (Koling wada ngal): Peer mentoring in the criminal justice system: An innovative, collaborative crime prevention partnership building a safe community

Claire Seppings, Deakin University
Wayne Harper, Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation

Peer mentoring happens in every corner of the world in many forms and has become increasingly popular in the mental health and drug and alcohol fields, with peer workers recognised as having a positive impact on client recovery. Claire Sepping’s 2015 Churchill Fellowship to study the rehabilitative role of ex-offenders as peer mentors in reintegration models in the UK, Republic of Ireland, Sweden and USA found that peer-led reintegration programs have proven to be successful in overseas jurisdictions. Projects that she studied saw a significant decrease in the reoffending rates of those who successfully engaged and had the support of a volunteer mentor. Ex-prisoners who have reformed contribute to reducing reoffending by mentoring newly released prisoners and advising on improvements to service systems that enable people to live a crime-free life.

In July 2017, Deakin University received philanthropic funds to develop and trial an Australian first innovative peer mentoring model based on Claire Sepping’s Churchill Fellowship findings. Deakin University is coordinating the two-year project in Geelong, Victoria, in partnership with the Department of Justice and Regulation. The project brings together a strong partnership team between Deakin University and the Department of Justice and Regulation. Corrections Victoria staff along with advocates, service providers and researchers are working collaboratively to develop, implement and trial the structured, person-centred, ‘through the gate’ peer mentoring program. The model is informed by the overseas research identifying prevailing thinking and recognised best practice of international peer mentoring programs for ex-prisoners. The model is further supported by developing Victorian correctional policy and
procedures within collaborative interagency reference and working groups providing expertise and guidance. The project includes a full ‘action research’ evaluation by Deakin University using an action research model. Deakin University and the Department of Justice and Regulation present an overview of the project.

**Measuring incapacitation using predictive models**

*Callum Sleigh, New Zealand Ministry of Justice*

In order to make policy decisions about the size of the prisoner population, a crucial question to answer is: how much crime is prevented by incapacitating people in prison? Unfortunately, it is difficult to answer this question directly, and the international academic literature provides extremely varied answers. The New Zealand justice sector has a novel tool to gain insight into this question: a microsimulation which allows us to simulate the offending career of every member of the New Zealand population. This microsimulation was built using the Statistics New Zealand Integrated Data Infrastructure, which contains anonymised data from health, education, justice, social welfare and many other government sectors. Thus, this presentation will showcase how to use anonymised ‘big data’ in order to gain insight for policy decisions.

**Crime prevention outside of the criminal justice system: The under-utilised role of the community sector in breaking patterns of imprisonment**

*Mindy Sotiri, Community Restorative Centre*

In 2016 the NSW government announced it would spend $237 million over four years to reduce reoffending across the state. The raft of programs announced in August 2016 included multiple new projects focused on the provision of community-based reintegration and diversion programs. At the time of writing, in New South Wales over $50
million has been committed to the community sector for the purpose of delivering programs to reduce recidivism and divert high-risk offenders from the criminal justice system. This is an unprecedented investment in programs to support people at risk of recidivism and certainly an unprecedented injection of justice funds into the community sector. While a great deal of attention has been paid to this investment and some optimistic claims made about the expected outcomes, very little attention has been paid to the nuts and bolts of exactly what these services are funded to do. This presentation explores the limitations of the new funded services in terms of their implementation, and argues that a more thoughtful and holistic approach to building pathways out of the criminal justice system is required if real change in reoffending and recidivism patterns is to be achieved. This presentation also explores the role of the community sector as partners in crime prevention, and argues that expertise and research that exists outside of criminal justice system agencies is required to break entrenched cycles of complex disadvantage and imprisonment.

Authors
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Supporting the development of prosocial behaviours among young people in custody

Sarah Strathearn, South Australian Department for Communities and Social Inclusion

In South Australia, the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion’s Youth Justice Division has recently implemented a revised Behaviour Support Framework (BSF) at the Adelaide Youth Training Centre (AYTC). The BSF guides the way in which staff and a range of multidisciplinary professionals at the AYTC interact with young people in custody on a daily basis.
Providing a prosocial incentive model, the framework has defined a best practice approach in the provision of positive behaviour supports for this vulnerable cohort. These supports are designed to incentivise and reinforce positive behaviour in a safe and consistent environment where staff across multiple disciplines role model and collaborate to reinforce prosocial behaviours. Through the application of this coordinated support framework, young people in custody are given opportunities to develop skills and behaviours to assist them while in custody and help prepare for their transition back into the community upon release and, ultimately, contribute to reducing the likelihood of recidivist behaviours.

Using a change management approach, the BSF project entailed end-to-end project management through design, implementation, evaluation and the transition to ‘business as usual’. The project involved extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders and fostered maximum engagement in the design and implementation of the new model. A communication strategy (including a range of developmentally appropriate, easy-to-read materials and visuals to aid resident understanding) and staff training were pivotal to implementation.

The introduction of the Youth Justice Administration Act 2016 in South Australia has driven best practice standards in youth justice administration to improve rehabilitation outcomes for young people and reduce re-offending. The BSF was developed in alignment with this legislation, research into national and international best practice in youth justice systems and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Authors
Sarah Strathearn, South Australian Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
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Innovative practice with Aboriginal young people involved with the justice system: The Ngudjoong Billa program from regional New South Wales

Carol Thomas, Juvenile Justice New South Wales

Juvenile Justice is the agency within the NSW Department of Justice responsible for the delivery of custodial and community-based programs to young people involved with the criminal justice system. The agency’s vision is to empower young people to fulfil their potential without offending.

Juvenile Justice works alongside funded external providers to jointly deliver evidence-based services for young people leaving custody or under community supervision. Improving outcomes for Aboriginal young people is a priority area for the agency.

Juvenile Justice is working in partnership with an Aboriginal community controlled organisation on the South Coast of New South Wales to implement a reintegration and transition program for Aboriginal young people.

‘Ngudjoong Billa’ is the language name for a permanent and reliable water source, a place of healing and renewal. The Ngudjoong Billa program provides intensive case management with a focus on strengthening cultural identity by building connections to family, community and country.

It is an innovative program testing the hypothesis that cultural identity is a protective factor for Aboriginal young people. Juvenile Justice has collaborated with the service provider to develop an evidence-based tool for measuring cultural identity and its impact on desistance from reoffending.
Central to the program’s success to date has been the partnership between the service and local Juvenile Justice workers, who meet weekly to share information and plan together.

A key element of the program is the development of a cultural plan with the young person which sets out the actions to support the young person to strengthen their cultural identity. A cultural questionnaire helps the worker explore the young person’s background, connections, supports and cultural knowledge.

Evaluation measures have been co-designed with the service provider. Evidence-based pre- and post-program tools have been developed for completion with young people, their families or carers and their Juvenile Justice caseworker.

**Challenging misconceptions of sexual crime: The continuing gap between public discourse and empirical research**

*Dr Patrick Tidmarsh, Victoria Police  
Ms Rena de Francesco, Victoria Police*

This presentation will address the many commonly held misconceptions about sexual offences, around both victims and offenders. There will be discussion of key areas of misconception, alongside the empirical evidence that refutes their veracity. Evidence of the sources of misconceptions, and reasons for continued use of these misconceptions, will be presented. Focus will be placed on four key areas of common misconception: offender behaviour, victims and their ‘counterintuitive’ behaviour, reporting and false reporting, and victim memory, both child and adult.

The impact of misconceptions on victims of sexual crime, both child and adult, on police investigators, as well as on court officials and jurors, will be discussed. The critical impact discussion will focus on three key areas: victim reporting rates, investigation attrition in sexual crime cases, and prosecution and conviction rates.
For the last 10 years Victoria Police has been engaged in cultural and practice change in the investigation of sexual crime. Changes have included a new investigative model, ‘Whole Story’, the development of 400 specialist investigators, and the creation of multidisciplinary centres, where police work alongside child protection workers and sexual assault counsellors. These changes and their effectiveness will be discussed, with particular reference to current community debates around sexual crime.
Youth crime prevention grants symposium
The Broadmeadows Community Youth Justice Alliance: A hyperlocal community development partnership

Jaime de Loma-Osorio Ricon, Banksia Gardens Community Services
Abdullah Lary, Banksia Gardens Community Services

Broadmeadows is located in the City of Hume, a locality renowned for its cultural diversity. For instance, according to the 2016 Census, over 60 percent of residents speak a language other than English at home. The city’s experience is that on the whole this reality is extremely positive, with many people enjoying exposure to different cultures, languages, religions and cuisines.

However, on many levels, the area is under a tremendous amount of pressure. Particularly in the southern region of the municipality, there are significant pockets of structural disadvantage, with suburbs such as Broadmeadows, Dallas and Jacana consistently ranking among the most disadvantaged suburbs in Victoria. (See the Dropping Off the Edge website for detail: https://dote.org.au/findings/victoria.) Some of the chronic issues affecting these areas include extremely high levels of unemployment (24.4% for Broadmeadows), low levels of education and income and health issues such as type 2 diabetes, obesity and smoking.

Structural disadvantage in Broadmeadows results in significantly higher levels of crime and antisocial behaviour, as well as high numbers of criminal convictions, many of which lead to incarceration.
In August 2017 a consortium of community organisations led by Banksia Gardens Community Services (BGCS) secured funding to implement a project called the Broadmeadows Community Youth Justice Alliance. This project includes the following components:

- YouthSpace 3047: A hyperlocal, universal, highly targeted, prosocial intervention using the existing BGCS programs as a platform;
- strategic co-location of essential support services; and
- several Levels of individual support, including support for highly recidivist young offenders.

The presentation will provide a brief overview of the risk factors that drive youth crime rates in the local area and of how the project is using current evidence to reduce offending behaviour and recidivism among project participants by increasing protective factors such as engagement in education and training or connectedness with the community.

**Pivot: A resilience based approach to youth crime prevention**

Lewis Burnside, Youth Support and Advocacy Service

The Pivot Youth Crime Prevention Program is funded by the Community Crime Prevention Unit within the Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation. The aims of Pivot are to reduce the severity and occurrence of youth offending, increase community connectedness and develop links to education, training and employment. Pivot is delivered across the Melbourne local government areas of Casey, Dandenong and Frankston, and in two consortiums containing the Youth Support and Advocacy Service (YSAS), the Salvation Army, the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Mission Australia, Jesuit Social Services, TaskForce and Whitelion. Along with a role as lead agency for the Pivot program, YSAS delivers a range of programs in the youth crime prevention space that include
statewide early intervention, forensic AOD and a suite of bespoke localised responses, translating evidence into practice through an underpinning framework of a resilience-based approach.

Using this approach with young offenders involves Care Planning for Resilience to develop a motivating plan that addresses the issues that matter to the young person. It facilitates transition from defensive coping to healthy adaptation, applying evidence-based strategies from developmental and resilience research. There are a range of needs that, if met in socially valued and constructive ways, will build each young person’s resilience and reduce their reliance on antisocial coping strategies aligned with marginalisation. These needs have been themed to create the following domains: safety, stability, agency, connectedness, participation and identity. The possibility that young people will make healthy, prosocial choices is maximised by working closely with them to establish viable alternatives to antisocial ways of meeting needs and responding to unresolved underlying issues that perpetuate and trigger offending behaviour.

Community, collaboration and crime statistics: Using evidence to develop, deliver and evaluate a youth crime prevention program (Victoria)

Caroline Henwood, Crime Statistics Agency

The Department of Justice and Regulation (DJR) has drawn on the evidence base about prevention of youth offending to implement an innovative Youth Crime Prevention Grants program. The program provides $10 million to community-led initiatives that address offending behaviour and recidivism by young people (10–24 years) who have had, or are at risk of having, contact with the criminal justice system. This presentation discusses the challenges and highlights of using evidence in the development, implementation and evaluation of the program.
The program design was underpinned with evidence provided by agencies including the Crime Statistics Agency. This delivered a unique opportunity to use data to identify and direct funding into communities experiencing high recidivist youth crime. These insights allowed the program to directly fund eight local government areas to deliver community-led interventions addressing risk and protective factors. DJR trialled a new approach to the traditional grants model, by facilitating the design process with local communities through workshops to support a collaborative partnership model of delivery. Evidence was used to identify an additional 10 communities that would benefit from the program, enabling DJR to prioritise grant applications addressing risk factors for youth crime in these communities.

This presentation describes how the program used data and research evidence to develop a sound program model, identify the communities who received funding, and to support stakeholders to challenge their understanding of local issues. It also discusses how the program evaluation will run concurrently to implementation, focusing on collecting evidence linked to risk and protective factors being addressed with individual participants. This approach allows for the use of data throughout program implementation and can support the program and its partners in an ‘action, reflection, learning and adaptive management’ approach. Ultimately this evidence will be used to inform the development and delivery of similar programs.

Authors
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Practice and systems change for youth crime prevention
Deborah Greenslade, Ballarat Community Health
Emily Nester, Berry Street
The Ballarat Youth Crime Prevention (YCP) project is one of 18 projects funded by the Victorian Government’s Youth Crime Prevention Grants program. The program aims to help local communities design and implement initiatives to address offending behaviour and recidivism in young people who have had contact with or have a demonstrated risk of being involved with the criminal justice system. All projects funded through this grant are participating in a statewide evaluation.

Drawing on a comprehensive review of literature about what works for young people in juvenile justice, the Ballarat YCP partnership used the funding to create an early intervention service, providing a new support pathway to a Multi-Agency Support Team (MAST). Consistent with the evidence, the MAST enables a range of supports to be provided to each young person and their family which are tailored to multiple known crime-related risk and protective factors. The MAST works with the young person and their family to develop, implement and monitor a support plan. The plan provides young people and their families with priority access to existing supports relevant to their individual needs and, as required, additional community or therapeutic supports.

In addition to the statewide evaluation, action research is being used in order to ensure that continuous reflection and improvement is built into the project. The action researcher’s role is to identify project wins, challenges and system barriers in order to make or recommend changes to how organisations work individually and collaboratively to improve outcomes for young people at risk of recidivism.

The project is funded for two years and commenced in July 2017. This session will provide an opportunity to hear about the project and some of the findings emerging from the action research.
The Inner Gippsland Child Youth Area Partnership: Translating evidence into practice though crime prevention partnerships

Kay Lancefield, Federation University and Inner Gippsland Child Youth Area Partnership

Scott Boddy, Anglicare Victoria

Early intervention strategies focused across the social ecology of youth vulnerable to future offending provide the most effective point to intervene and prevent progression of an offending trajectory. Given the finite fiscal resources available to communities and government, it is critical that prevention efforts are targeted toward those factors that are most likely to have positive outcomes in reducing the level of youth contact with the criminal justice system. This presentation details work of the Inner Gippsland Child Youth Area Partnership (IGCYAP) focused on the priority group of young people at risk of entering the justice system.

To inform policy and practice decisions and enhance prevention efforts within Inner Gippsland, initiatives of the IGCYAP are focused on collaborative practice. This presentation will discuss ‘ReBoot’, an initiative developed as a crime prevention strategy to support at risk youth. This program draws referrals from a multi-agency working group where agencies’ contact with and knowledge of vulnerable youth can be used effectively to enhance prevention activities.

The ReBoot project is headed by Anglicare Victoria and funded by the Victorian Government Youth Crime Prevention Grants program. An innovative community led program, ReBoot provides specialist support and access to a network of services to at-risk young people. The program engages and provides intensive support for young people, aged between 10 and 14 years, who have demonstrated risk of engaging with the criminal justice system or are currently engaged in low-level offending, to create a pathway away from offending.
Bringing government agencies and community services together to build understanding through sharing of knowledge and desired outcomes reflects a change in practice. The presentation will demonstrate the value of and discuss issues arising from the partnership approach.
Keynote abstracts
Making communities safer: Translating evidence into practice

Lorraine Mazerolle, University of Queensland

Fundamental to evidence-based policy is the basic principle of ‘Do no harm.’ In policing, social service provision, court processing, correctional programs and all other aspects of crime prevention and control, the capacity to make communities safe is high, but so too is the potential to do harm, if community-based interventions are not tested using sound scientific methods of evaluation. This presentation begins with an overview of evidence-based approaches to crime and justice, focusing on what we know works to reduce crime and violence. But knowing what works and what doesn’t is only half of the equation for bringing about safer communities. Translating evidence into practice is what poses the biggest challenge to policymakers, practitioners and researchers. The second half of the presentation will use three case studies that highlight different crime prevention approaches and the concomitant challenges associated with the translation process. The first case study describes the Queensland Community Engagement Trial and translation of the Campbell Collaboration Legitimacy Policing Systematic Review into practice, not just in Australia but elsewhere in the world. The second case study introduces the Ability School Engagement Program and illustrates the way a partnership approach between police and schools could better engage with truanting young people to encourage them to return to school and reduce self-reported antisocial behaviour. The third case study focuses on a detective-led Third Party Policing intervention that was tested under randomised field trial conditions. The presentation concludes with a discussion about the upscaling process of successful programs, with a focus on highlighting the challenges of moving from evidence to policy.
Informal social control and crime prevention: Do the actions of ordinary citizens reduce crime?

Rebecca Wickes, Monash University

A century of research demonstrates that crime concentrates in particular neighbourhoods. This concentration is considered to be, at least in part, a function of the inability or unwillingness of local residents to regulate unwanted behaviour. Indeed, this is one of the central propositions of traditional and contemporary social disorganisation theory. Yet we know little about the factors that influence residents’ responses to crime. Further, whether or not the actions of ordinary citizens reduce crime remains largely unexplored. This presentation places what residents do in response to crime at the centre of inquiry. Drawing on unique longitudinal survey data and case studies from the Australian Community Capacity Study, this research considers how residents perceive and respond to neighbourhood problems and whether local residents’ actions influence local crime rates over time. By examining the individual, household, and community level predictors of crime control actions and the kinds of actions residents employ in response to local problems, this presentation reveals the limits of informal social control and identifies important insights and future directions for community crime prevention policy, practice and research.

Crime prevention and problem solving in the United Kingdom

Steve Trigg, National Police Chiefs’ Council

This presentation outlines how the UK police service will assist in the creation of a society where communities have the best possible quality of life, by focusing on preventive policing and the use of effective partnership oriented problem solving.
The main duty of policing has not changed since 1829:

‘The basic mission for which the police exist is to prevent crime and disorder.’

Sir Robert Peel (Peelian principle 1)

The late twentieth century saw a rapid increase in burglary and auto crime, with crime prevention in the UK becoming synonymous with situational crime prevention. Crime Prevention Officers and the National Crime Prevention College emphasised this approach.

In the 1990s recognition that the police alone had neither the resources nor the data to enable effective preventive activity led to the creation of statutory bodies known as Crime and Disorder Partnerships. At the same time those involved in problem oriented policing moved to partnership oriented problem solving.

This century, a disconnection has occurred between junior crime prevention staff and senior police officers. The former tend to concentrate on acquisitive (situational) crimes while the latter focus on a threat, risk and harm approach in all areas, including child sexual exploitation, terrorism, cybercrime and complex offender dependencies. Inevitably they have to consider the additional demands on public services that the focus on such issues has brought.

The first National Police Crime Prevention Strategy (2015) seeks to remove this disconnection by identifying the key components required for effective crime prevention, at both a local and a national level. The strategy recognises that, in order to professionalise preventive problem solving, a framework is required for all crime prevention, whatever the crime type.

The presentation will conclude with current preventive activity including work being undertaken as a result of a A$10m grant from the UK government.
‘A more reliable glimpse’: Repositioning the offender in crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)

Professor Rachel Armitage, University of Huddersfield

This presentation focuses upon crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)—a crime prevention approach that seeks to enhance safety (actual and perceived) through the design of the built and natural environment. It explores the extent to which we have determined what works and, crucially, how that position has been established. Presenting an overview of the delivery of CPTED within England and Wales and the progress made in integrating crime prevention into the planning system, the presentation questions the extent to which the position of the offender has influenced the design, development and re-examination of what works.

Using data from interviews with 22 prolific burglars, the presentation explores the extent to which offenders confirm or contradict what we think we know about what works in preventing crime through the design and build of the built environment, and what this means for the translation of evidence into policy and practice. The presentation concludes by proposing a broader approach to CPTED, one that considers the wider role of design in influencing prosocial as well as antisocial behaviour and how such an approach could reposition the offender within the crime prevention debate.