

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ACPC BRANCH REPORT

## THE 1992 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This meeting was held in late October 1992. The guest speaker was Mr. John Dawes, the Executive Director of the Department of Correctional Services and President of the S.A. Justice Administration Foundation. The meeting (a dinner meeting) provided the Branch with an opportunity to thank a number of people, including members of the Youth Sub-committee of the Branch, for their work during the past year.

## THE S.A. GOVERNMENT CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY

The Branch continues to support the S.A. Government Crime Prevention Strategy - "Together Against Crime", and is represented on the Coalition Against Crime. Although changes in direction of the Strategy have led to two working groups, in each of which the Branch had a particular interest, being disbanded - "The Working Group on Crimes of Violence" and "The Working Group on Community-based Crime Prevention" - the many other initiatives being undertaken in pursuit of the objectives of the Strategy and overseen by the Crime Prevention Unit of the Attorney-General's Department represent important steps along the path to an integrated crime prevention strategy at the State level. Of concern is the fact that the Branch is not represented on the new Core Group of the Coalition Against Crime; after all, the Branch was one of the joint sponsors of the Strategy in its critical initial stage; and, though not involved in delivery of services, is seen as a peak organisation in the field of crime prevention. Whilst in one sense the implementation of the Strategy at the State level and the setting up of the broad-based Committee can be seen as constituting a successful outcome both for the Council in general and the Branch in particular, it is too early for anyone to claim that this important government Strategy (at a State level) has been a success. Many would contend that there is an ongoing and important role for the Branch to perform probably in some areas hitherto not the subject of focus.

The new Executive is continuing to re-assess the role and function of the Branch in the current climate in which "crime prevention" and "community safety" initiatives have become much more than visionary slogans and now represent hard contemporary facts.

## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

The Branch continues to be an active participant in the affairs of the Australian Crime Prevention Council at the national level. Biennial National Conferences, such as the highly successful Conference held in Wollongong, New South Wales, in September 1991, and the publication of the Journal continue to be important aspects of the Council's work.

The Branch is watching with interest the recent initiatives of the Australian Police Ministers' Council and the developments taking place to establish an Australian Community Safety Council. Indeed, the Branch was pleased to learn that the Australian Crime Prevention Council was invited to participate in the National Conference on Community Safety held in Melbourne on 19th November 1992, the outcome of which might be the foundation on a permanent basis of an Australian Community Safety Council.

Whether this recent initiative represents "a watershed in crime prevention and community safety initiatives in this community" or becomes another "waterhole" remains to be seen. Whatever the outcome, the Branch considers that the National Executive should continue to indulge in some self-evaluation and give consideration to directions for the future. The Branch is of the view that, if the new Australian Community Safety Council is to succeed, it must be a broadly-based Council and it must have the support of both the government sector and the private sector. If it is not to be a voluntary organisation funded at least in part by government, then widely-based community participation in this semi-governmental initiative is required. The Branch finds it hard to imagine that the

Australian Crime Prevention Council, with its 25 years of involvement in the crime prevention arena and with its diversity of membership, would not be seen as a peak private or non-government organisation appropriate to represent private sector within the organisational structure of the Australian Community Safety Council.

#### ACTIVITIES IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE

The Branch has been approached to co-sponsor the 8th International Symposium on Victimology to be held in Adelaide in 1994 and has been pleased to accept this challenge.

The Branch is likely to be hosting the 1995 Biennial National Conference of the Australian Crime Prevention Council. The Executive met in late 1992 in a country location for a working week-end to discuss a proposal and possible plans for this major event. Although details cannot be released as yet, members of the Executive are enthusiastic about the proposal.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

A number of activities and initiatives have been implemented by this sub-committee under the chairmanship of Mr. R.J. Kidney A.M. Of special interest is the project currently being implemented involving the designing, printing and framing of a Certificate of Appreciation and a membership Certificate to be presented to those individuals, departments, agencies or corporations who have "assisted the Council in promoting a just society through crime prevention" or who have become members of the Branch. The Executive is particularly grateful to Mr. David Bowyer for his efforts.

#### YOUTH SUB-COMMITTEE

This sub-committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Greg Clark S.M. has been very active once again in the past year. A major task that was undertaken was the preparation of a Position Statement presented to the Select Committee of the House of Assembly on the Juvenile Justice System.

This Position Statement went forward as the Branch's Position Statement.

During Law Week in 1992 a successful lunch-time panel discussion was conducted on the subject: "Crime Prevention - What is being done?".

Current activities include some Pilot Projects for crime prevention initiatives involving primary and secondary students. Another activity being planned is one for secondary students along the lines of the Law Quiz Nights that have previously been successfully conducted.

Judge A.B.C. Wilson  
Chairman  
Australian Crime Prevention Council  
S.A. Branch and S.A. Representative on the  
National Executive.