

From the Director's desk . . .

As another year of successful public seminars draws to a close it is timely to reflect on the Institute's public education function.

This year we have been fortunate to have presented speakers of the highest quality, representing a broad range of interests. Our seminar topics (Committals, Money Laundering and the Confiscation of Assets, The Independent Commission Against Corruption and Coronial Inquiries) proved to reflect the Institute's commitment to open up public discussion around issues of topical and contemporary concern.

Even so, it's becoming increasingly difficult to mount a series of public seminars which attract the paying public, and retain a reputation for lively and open debate.

The Institute perceives a shift in demand for public education options. Variety is the key to the success of our programme. To ensure that we utilize the expertise of visiting experts, and respond quickly to issues which arise and require some immediate response, we have expanded our "in-house" seminar series. This year the sessions have covered topics as diverse as computerised legal information management, and the use of hypnosis in criminal investigation. The "special interest" audiences which have participated in these seminars, express warm approval of such fora.

In 1991 we will also be launching a half-day seminar session, at which specialist topics of professional interest will be discussed in detail.

In an academic and community setting where advances in information technology and transfer are fast making even the medium through which I am conversing with you, obsolete, an organization like the Institute of Criminology must be willing to shift into new education settings. Perhaps the days when debate follows the physical delivery of seminar papers are numbered. Whatever the future of the Institute's seminar programmes in the long term, they will continue to form the backbone of this journal, and the focus for our public education effort during 1991.

Mark Findlay