

From the Director's Desk

With the publication of the Independent Commission Against Corruption's "Report on the Investigation Into the Metherell Resignation and Appointment" (June 1992) the issue of corrupt conduct by public officials has again assumed considerable significance in New South Wales. Not only were the political consequences of that report dramatic, but the debate associated with the legislative definition of corrupt conduct, and broader public expectations for the behaviour of political figures has led to a general reconsideration of corruption control priorities.

The New South Wales Court of Appeal in its verdict on *Greiner and Moore v ICAC* suggested that a dichotomy had developed between legislative determinations of corrupt conduct and what was the common understanding of corruption within the community. In order to assist in the closure of that gap the Institute of Criminology, in association with the New South Wales Parliamentary Committee on the ICAC, held a series of seminars in October to discuss the conceptualisation of corruption in this State, and the appropriate procedures for its identification. In this way the Institute continues its commitment to providing contemporary and relevant forums for debate within which important issues of community concern might be explored. The Institute is able to provide a bridge between a variety of public interests so that the process of political scrutiny and legislative and administrative reform might be facilitated.

October was a busy month for the Institute in other ways. The staff were actively involved in the 8th Annual Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology held at Melbourne University over the first week of October. Besides participating in the formal sessions of the conference, the Institute took the opportunity to discuss with other researchers, teachers and criminal justice administrators the potentials which the Institute retains in the areas of publishing, public education and information exchange. In particular the CrimNet network was unveiled to the wider criminological community in Australia, and looks like forming a fundamental mechanism of communication throughout academic institutions, research centres and administrative agencies involved in criminology and criminal justice across the nation. The Institute plans to host next year's ANZ Society Conference.

The principal speaker at the Melbourne conference was Professor Stanley Cohen of the Hebrew University. Stan Cohen was one of the founding members of the National Deviancy Conference in Britain in the early 70s and since then has been a key figure in the development of critical criminology throughout Europe. His recent analysis of social control has confirmed his position as one of the principal scholars of criminology in the Western world. In the week following the conference the Institute was fortunate to host Professor Cohen as a Parsons Visiting Fellow in the Law Faculty. A highlight of Stan's visit was a seminar which he presented to the Faculty entitled "The Politics of Reconstruction: Thoughts on Social Control in Eastern Europe and South Africa". The paper ranged over a wide field of issues within the politics of social control. Professor Cohen reviewed his earlier position on the discourse of social control as a background to some speculation on the problems generated both for and by control scenarios within environments of social reconstruction.

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