

From the Director's Desk

A team from the Institute of Criminology attended the 11th International Congress on Criminology held in Budapest during the last week of August this year. We organised a workshop entitled "Accountability and Sanction: Australian Dimensions of Police and Prosecutions"; in which papers were delivered on Police Accountability and Deaths in Custody, Policing Domestic Violence, and the Prosecution of War Crimes. In addition, the Institute took the opportunity to advertise its publications to a wide cross-section of the international criminological community. In particular this journal, and our recent monographs, were received with interest, and a number of conference participants congratulated the Institute on its recent publication record.

Continuing our monograph series, the Institute successfully launched "Psychiatry in Court: the Use(fulness) of Psychiatric Reports in Court Proceedings". This monograph has been written by Peter Shea, a distinguished psychiatrist in the New South Wales public health system with a long and productive association with this faculty as a teacher in Forensic Psychiatry. Peter's book critically analyses the position of psychiatric evidence in the courtroom and calls for a careful reassessment of the position and impact of such expert evidence. Before the end of the year we also hope to publish "Women, Male Violence and the Law" (a collection of essays edited by Julie Stubbs), and an important book on modern penalty: "The Home and the Prison" (by Ann Aungles). As a slight diversion from things "criminal" we have happily taken on the challenge of publishing for staff member (and previous editor of the journal) David Fraser, "The Man in White is Always Right: Cricket and the Law".

On the eve of the 9th Annual Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Conference, which the Institute is hosting, we look forward to a timely and critical exploration of the conference theme: "Crime and Social Division". The conference organisers were fortunate enough to attract Professor David Garland of the University of Edinburgh to join the conference as its keynote speaker.

The Institute has recently benefited from a marketing report prepared by students of the University of Technology Sydney. The authors of the report, as part of their research, surveyed members of the Institute and subscribers to the journal in order to ascertain the reasons why people read *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, and their satisfaction with the publication. Overall, the research found that most subscribers to the journal were happy with it in terms of currency of information, relevance of articles, quality of articles and calibre of the authors. The majority of readers read the journal for research purposes and general information. Some readers wanted more journal space devoted to contemporary comment, current events and articles, as well as to recent court decisions involving criminal justice issues, factors which will be considered in planning future issues.

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