CRIME PREVENTION 2011 AND BEYOND –
A FORUM OF KEY PERSONNEL FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Crime Prevention Programs/Initiatives Found to be Particularly Valuable and Relevant in Australia

Prepared by: Garner Clancey

Introductory Remarks

I would like to commence by acknowledging and paying respect to the traditional owners of the land on which we meet; the Kaurna people. As we share our own knowledge, teaching, learning and research practices may we also pay respect to the knowledge embedded forever within the Aboriginal Custodianship of Country.

I would also like to congratulate and thank the organisers of this event. Many members of the Australian Crime Prevention Council have worked tirelessly for many months to organise this wonderful and important Forum. While many people contribute to the hosting of an event of this nature, special mention must be made of the Organising Committee, which consists of:

- Master Peter Norman OAM, Chairman, ACPC
- Judge Andrew Wilson AM, Past President, ACPC
- Mr John Murray APM, Secretary and Public Officer ACPC
- Mr Adam Bodzioch, Treasurer ACPC
- Associate Professor Patrikeeff, Master of Kathleen Lumley College

It is an honour to be given the opportunity to speak today and to share some thoughts on promising and valuable Australian crime prevention developments. There are a score of people involved in this event who could equally be providing this address. Many of the Australian representatives here today have been responsible for some of the successful initiatives which I will mention and who deserve considerable credit for the foresight, determination and perseverance to turn good ideas into effective practice. I hope that I will do their work justice in my presentation.

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The Australian Context

Before considering aspects of crime prevention policy and practice in Australia, it is important to establish the context for this work. Australia’s land mass is 7.7 million square kilometres (including 12,000) islands, making it the sixth largest country (by land mass) in the world. This land mass is approximately twice the size of the European Union and is 32 times greater than the size of the United Kingdom.

The Australian population was 22,524,063 at 30 June 2010. With large tracts of Australia uninhabited (and potentially uninhabitable), the bulk of the population live in urban areas. The population, like in many industrialised nations, is ageing. The median age of the Australian population was 31.6 years in 1988, but had increased to 36.9 years by 2008.

Indigenous Australians constitute only a small minority of the overall population. Approximately 2.5% of the population are Indigenous (i.e. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders). The Indigenous population is relatively young, with a median age of 21 years. This is due to lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and higher fertility rates in Indigenous communities.

Twenty-six per cent of the Australian population were born overseas. In descending order, the following are the countries were people were born: the United Kingdom, New Zealand, China, India, Italy, Vietnam, Philippines, South Africa, Greece and Germany. Consistent with this cultural diversity, there are approximately 400 languages spoken in Australia (about half are Indigenous). The most common languages, other than English and Indigenous languages, are: Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Spanish.

Australia operates with a federal system of government. This means that there is a Federal Government and six State and two Territory governments. Further to these two tiers, Australia also has approximately 560 local government bodies, divided amongst the State and Territories.

These characteristics have significant consequences for crime prevention policy and practice in Australia.

A Snapshot of Crime in Australia

Leaving aside the well documented debates about the accuracy (Black, 1970; Graycar and Grabosky, 2002) and validity of crime data as a measure of crime (Watts et al, 2008), the following provides a snapshot of some recent crime statistics. This information, taken from the Australian Institute of Criminology’s ‘Australian Crime Facts and Figures 2009’ publication, shows the number of incidents of key offences types in Australia in 2008. There were:

2 The following information and considerably more detailed demographic information about Australia can be found in the 2009-10 Year Book Australia, published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
• 290 incidents of homicide in 2008 in Australia
• 170,277 incidents of assault in 2008 in Australia
• 19,733 incidents of sexual assault in 2008 in Australia
• 16,508 incidents of robbery in 2008 in Australia
• 782 incidents of kidnapping in 2008 in Australia
• 241,690 incidents of unauthorised entry with intent in 2008 in Australia
• 68,270 incidents of motor vehicle theft in 2008 in Australia
• 496,607 incidents of other theft in 2008 in Australia (Australian Institute of Criminology, 2010)

Generally speaking, there have been declines in property-related offences in the last 10 years (approaching 50% reductions for motor vehicle theft and unauthorised entry with intent) and increases in person offences (excluding homicide, which has remained relatively stable).

Comparing crime rates of different countries is met with numerous difficulties. Different reporting rates and different definitions for offences are the most significant challenges associated with international comparisons. Despite these difficulties, findings from the most recent International Crime Victims Survey tend to suggest that Australia has average rates of crime for key crime types (van Dijk et al, 2007).

Crime Prevention in Australia – Some Key Observations

Given the volume of crime prevention activities, providing a brief synopsis of crime prevention policy and practice in Australia is difficult. Given the complex interplay between the three tiers of government, their agencies and the various political forces shaping government policy at all levels, not to mention the inter-jurisdictional tussles, it is apparent that any brief overview will be partial and necessarily limited. With these caveats stated, the following are some broad key observations pertaining to crime prevention in Australia:

• While the Federal government has numerous agencies that focus on aspects of the prevention of crime (for example, the Australian Federal Police, Customs, Protective Services, the Australian Crime Commission), there has generally been limited involvement of or leadership from the Federal Government in setting crime prevention policy (P. Homel, 2005). Periodic involvement of the Federal Government has often focused, in recent years, on providing funding for closed-circuit television and street lighting (as with the $15 million Safer Suburbs Plan introduced at the 2007 election), rather than providing an overarching crime prevention policy framework.

• Consequently, much of the leadership on crime prevention has come from State and Territory governments. This tier of government generally has responsibility for police, education, housing, liquor licensing, child protection, courts administration, juvenile and
adult corrections, and welfare programs and departments. Given the significant role assumed by these agencies in preventing crime, many key developments in crime prevention in Australia in recent decades have been driven by State and Territory governments. In or by the 1990s, most State and Territory governments had established specific Crime Prevention Units (Cameron and Laycock, 2002). These Units tended to reside in either community or courts administration/justice portfolios. While some of these Units have been closed or moved into policing agencies in recent years, State and Territory governments continue to have a role in crime prevention in Australia.

- Consistent with wider international developments (Sutton, 1990; Shaw, 2001; UNODC, 2004) municipal and local government authorities have actively participated in crime prevention in Australia since the early 1990s (Sutton, 1997; Sutton and Cherney, 2002; Cameron and Laycock, 2002; Cherney, 2004a; Cherney, 2004b; Cherney, 2006). Many councils have recruited Crime Prevention Officers, established Crime Prevention Committees, developed Crime Prevention Plans and created structures to ensure that land use and development considers future crime risks (to be discussed in more detail later in this paper).

Non-government, voluntary, business and other organisations have also contributed significantly to crime prevention in Australia. A vibrant civil society has been instrumental in the advent of many programs and initiatives, and due recognition should be paid to these organisation, groups and individuals.

**Promising Australian Crime Prevention Programs / Initiatives**

Showcasing programs and initiatives, from the many operating across Australia, is necessarily subjective and invariably imperfect. It is not possible to be familiar with of all of the crime prevention activities operating in the country. I have attempted to identify individual initiatives and broad strands of crime prevention practice that appear to be promising and perhaps signify something particularly or uniquely Australian. The promising initiatives that have been selected for attention are:

- The Pathways to Prevention Project
- The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Guidelines and Planning Controls
- Prevention of Alcohol-Related Crime for Licensed Venues
Early Intervention – Pathways to Prevention Project

An Australian expert on developmental criminology, Ross Homel, suggests that developmental prevention (or early intervention) “involves the organised provision of resources in some fashion to individuals, families, schools or communities to forestall the later development of crime or other problems” (R. Homel, 2005: 71). With considerable evidence now supporting the human and financial benefits of early intervention (see Developmental Crime Prevention Consortium, 1999; Welsh et al, 2010), there has been a proliferation of early intervention programs across Australia. Often these programs are embedded within educational, family support, child protection and welfare structures, making it difficult to isolate specific examples of best practice.

One initiative worthy of attention is the Pathways to Prevention Project (see R. Homel et al, 2006 for a fuller description). This project represents a collaborative arrangement between a university (i.e. Griffith University), a major non-government organisation (i.e. Mission Australia), schools and families near Brisbane, the capital of Queensland. This Project predominantly involved two major strands:

1. Preschool Intervention Program – this aspect of the Project focused on improving language skills of preschoolers. Due to the importance of language and communication skills to learning and the links with problem behaviours, it was decided that these skills would become the focus of the program. Specialist teachers attended preschools and provided enrichment activities and direct skills training for the children. Results from this program suggest moderate to relatively large program effects.

2. Family Independence Program – this aspect of the Project sought to engage families and caregivers through a variety of activities, including:
   - Individual support and counselling
   - Behaviour management
   - Playgroups
   - Programs designed to link activities with schools
   - Broad-based community development

These activities were delivered by culturally and linguistically appropriate workers and specialists. Outcome data from surveys with key stakeholders suggested that children and their families improved across an array of variables, including reduced social isolation, improved links to schools and improved access to services.

Beyond these interventions, one of the most significant benefits arising from this program is the learning that has occurred about delivering of interventions of this nature. Aspects of this learning have been captured (R. Homel et al, 2006: 2) and are reproduced here.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Think Developmentally</strong></th>
<th><strong>Do Good Science</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. emphasise universal, non-stigmatising programs</td>
<td>1. develop evidence based interventions (based both on research and effective practice)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. focus on life transitions and related developmental issues</td>
<td>2. focus on preventive interventions</td>
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<td>3. use a multi-contextual approach with programs located within the major spheres that influence children’s development</td>
<td>3. commit to the achievement of measurable goals</td>
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<td>4. focus on building connections between key developmental contexts</td>
<td>4. use both quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. use a strength-based orientation – build on families’ personal and cultural assets</td>
<td>5. focus on outcomes – avoid the usual drift to outputs</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. generate new knowledge – how were the outcomes achieved?</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Understand Community Needs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Engage in Community Development</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. the needs of the community take precedence over the interests of the partner organisations</td>
<td>1. empower individuals and community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. use multiple methods to understand local needs and resources:</td>
<td>2. employ local people and train them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) risk factor analyses</td>
<td>3. involve the community in planning activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) qualitative surveys</td>
<td>4. support existing programs and services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) local histories (including oral)</td>
<td>5. build partnerships between services, researchers, local institutions &amp; the community</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) focus groups</td>
<td>6. facilitate access to services by culturally diverse groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) build on knowledge of community workers</td>
<td>7. demonstrate commitment to the community</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8. communities cannot do it all: use external expertise</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9. work for sustainability: changes in institutional practices</td>
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In the spirit of contributing to the evidence-base on early intervention, this project has produced a number of reports, including:

Many programs across Australia reflect the tenets of early intervention. However, few have the rigour or strong collaborative partnerships involved in the Pathways to Prevention Project. Consequently, it stands as a promising initiative in its own right and a yardstick for other similar programs.

**National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC)**

The NMVTRC was established in 1999 to respond to the volume of motor vehicle theft in Australia. In the mid 1990s, it was estimated that Australia was second only to the United Kingdom in rates of motor vehicle theft (Hill, 1998). With numerous jurisdictional challenges associated with the Australian federal system of government, the NMVTRC was established to forge partnerships between the critical stakeholders and across jurisdictions. The opportunity to exploit cross-jurisdictional legislative and law enforcement differences was a critical challenge to prevention efforts. The NMVTRC currently consists of a small executive team (based in Melbourne) and representatives from the following agencies:

- Insurance Council of Australia
- Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management
- Australian Automobile Association
- Federal Chamber of Automative Industries
- Australian Government
- Motor Traders Association of Australia

Since its inception in 1999, the NMVTRC has focused on a number of key priorities and strategies, including:

1. Reduce the cost of vehicle theft with countermeasures that impede the activities of organised criminals attempting to turn stolen vehicles or components into cash. Theft for profit accounts for a quarter of all vehicle thefts but constitutes up to half of the estimated cost of car crime to the nation. Reducing these costs requires responses that diminish the lucrative returns to those parties who seek to deal in stolen vehicles and parts, and/or increase the likelihood of their activities being detected.

Countermeasures to reduce the cost of vehicle theft include:

- continuing to improve the national exchange of vehicle information between registration authorities and police;
- improving the identification of motor vehicles and their parts;
- supporting measures to minimise the flow of stolen parts into the legitimate motor trades; and
- ensuring that vehicle theft investigation remains a priority issue in enforcement and national police intelligence collation.
2. Reduce the volume of vehicle theft with strategies to reduce the opportunistic theft of older vehicles for joyriding, transport or to commit another crime. The theft of older vehicles by youths accounts for the overwhelming volume of vehicle theft in Australia, with three out of every four stolen vehicles falling into this category.

Strategies to reduce the volume of vehicle theft include:
- facilitating individual state-based compulsory immobilisation schemes where a clear cost-benefit exist;
- promoting effective security practices to the motoring community; and

There has been a significant reduction in the number and rate of motor vehicle thefts in Australia in the last decade. According to data released by the NMVTRC, short-term thefts have fallen in Australia from 119,127 in the 2000/01 financial year to 40,191 in the 2009/2010 financial year (http://ncars.on.net/docs/quick/AUS_summary_finyr.pdf). This is consistent with general reductions in major crime types in many countries (Farrell et al, 2010) and consistent with reductions specifically in motor vehicle theft that have been attributed, at least in the case of England and Wales, to improvements to central locking and immobilisers (Farrell et al, 2008).

The NMVTRC has advocated these and other forms of car security; contributed greatly to increasing the level of research and data available; advanced the level of communication between stakeholders; aided the alignment of policies across jurisdictions; and enhanced the level of understanding of the numerous variables contributing to motor vehicle theft. Through these practices, the NMVTRC has actively contributed to the significant falls in motor vehicle theft in Australia over the last decade.

**Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) – Design Guidelines and Planning Controls**

Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) is “the proper design and effective use of the built environment” which “can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, and an improvement in the quality of life” (Crowe, 2000: 46). Key concepts associated with achieving CPTED include: natural surveillance or ‘eyes on the street’ (Jacobs, 1961); territorial reinforcement and access control (Newman, 1972); and space management (Crowe, 2000). In essence, these CPTED concepts seek to increase the activities, surveillance and amenities in public areas, while restricting access to private areas and delineating the transition from public to private spaces. When adopted appropriately, these CPTED concepts can increase the risks and effort of offending, remove the excuses for and reduce the rewards of offending (Cornish and Clarke, 2003), consistent with situational crime prevention theories.
CPTED has now been adopted in many jurisdictions around the world, evidenced by the growth in CPTED design guidelines and manuals produced by various governments. In Australia, most State and Territory governments have produced similar documents. The Australian Capital Territory has the ‘ACT Crime Prevention and Urban Design Resource Manual’ (2000); in April 2001, the then NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning released ‘Crime prevention and the assessment of development applications: Guidelines under section 79c of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)’; the South Australian Department of Transport and Urban Planning released ‘Designing Out Crime: Design Solutions for Safer Neighbourhoods’ (2004); the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment has developed ‘Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria’ (2005); the Western Australian Planning Commission authored the ‘Designing Out Crime Planning Guidelines’ (2006); and the Queensland Government has released ‘Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Guidelines for Queensland’ (2007). While the content and style of the guidelines differs across these jurisdictions, they all embed CPTED into planning regimes and provide a policy (and in some cases statutory) recognition of CPTED.

Beyond these guidelines and practice directions, many councils have introduced planning controls. For example, in New South Wales various councils have introduced Development Control Plans (DCPs) that specifically focus on CPTED. Together, these planning guidelines and controls have a number of implications, including: 1) ensuring that the planning, policing and architectural industries are more cognisant of crime risks arising from the built environment; 2) providing the impetus for the training of relevant design and policing professionals; 3) providing authority for planning consent authorities to recommend changes to plans where crime risks have been identified.

The widespread adoption of CPTED principles augers well for reducing crime risks associated with the built environment for many decades to come. The popularity of CPTED across Australia means that there is a generation of police, planners, architects and other design professionals who automatically consider crime risks in their work. Through the establishment of training and ongoing professional development in CPTED, future generations of planning professionals will be even better equipped to grapple with these issues.

*Preventing Alcohol-Related Crime from Licensed Venues*

Alcohol consumption in Australia is wide-spread. National household survey data suggests that 83% of the population over the age of 14 years consume alcohol in a 12-month period (AIHW, 2008). It is estimated that Australia ranks 14th among OECD countries for per capita consumption of alcohol, consuming approximately 10 litres of alcohol per annum (Proude et al, 2009). This level of alcohol consumption is associated with various physical and social costs, including premature death, various physical ailments, hospitalisation, accidents, lost productivity, erosion of relationships, requirement for treatment and various other consequences. Moreover, alcohol is associated with
increased involvement in crime and risk of victimisation, as demonstrated by some of the following statistics from across Australia:

- In New South Wales in 2006-07 there were:
  - 20,475 alcohol-related assaults excluding domestic violence incidents, up from 10,305 in 1997-98
  - 11,570 incidents of alcohol-related malicious damage, up from 6,179 in 1997-98
  - 8,458 incidents of alcohol-related offensive conduct, up from 4,967 in 1997-98 (NSW Auditor General, 2008: 36).
- A report commissioned by the South Australia Police on alcohol and crime in Adelaide (capital of South Australia) stated the following:
  - “South Australia Police data indicate that, in 2008-09 in the Adelaide Central Business District, 58% of victim-reported crime was alcohol-related”, which can broken down into the following offence categories:
    - 62% of offences against the person were alcohol-related
    - 65% of serious assaults were alcohol-related
    - 65% of minor assaults were alcohol-related
    - 81% of incidents of assault police were alcohol-related
    - 53% of non-arson property damage were alcohol-related
    - 76% of disorderly or offensive behaviour were alcohol-related
    - 77% of hindering police/resisting arrest were alcohol-related” (SA Police, 2010: 13)
  - “In the CBD there is a very clear pattern in the times of peaks of: demand for general policing responses; ... positive blood alcohol tests for drivers; ambulance call-outs; and alcohol-related presentations to the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Without exception, they all peak in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings” (SA Police, 2010: vi).
- The Northern Territory Policing Strategy 2010-2012 states the following:
  - 74% of all fatal crashes in 2009 were alcohol-related
  - 96% of homicide-related offences were associated with alcohol in the 2008/09 financial year
  - 52% of family violence incidents involved alcohol
  - 36% of reported incidents requiring police attendance were alcohol-related (Northern Territory Police, 2010: 3)

Similar data could be provided for all Australian jurisdictions. Clearly, alcohol consumption and the associated crime and disorder are significant issues facing governments, police and communities.

From the existing research literature, a host of variables emerge that appear to contribute to greater concentration of crime in and around some venues. These variables include:

- Hotels are over-represented when compared with other licensed premises for alcohol-related crime
• Venues with extended trading hours are similarly over-represented in alcohol-related crime data
• Venues attracting large numbers of young people (especially young men) experience greater problems
• Low comfort
• High boredom
• Aggressive bouncers
• Discounted drinks
• Poor ventilation
• Lack of cleanliness
• A hostile atmosphere
• Overcrowding
• Inadequate numbers of bar staff and bar staff continuing to serve intoxicated customers

Analysis of the contribution of these and other variables to elevated levels of crime has resulted in numerous responses being developed. Many directly involve police, while others are associated with regulation of licensed venues, improving the provision of transport, enhancing the surroundings of licensed venues, improving security regimes and restricting alcohol to intoxicated persons. These and other preventive measures outlined by Graham and R. Homel (2008: 241-245) are now routinely employed across Australia and are summarised below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Factors</th>
<th>Approaches, Interventions and Programs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural expectations</td>
<td>• Bar violence is normative and largely acceptable in many countries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Legislative, licensing, educational and regulatory approaches that communicate that bar violence is not acceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effects of alcohol consumption</td>
<td>• The risk of aggression is increased by the effects of alcohol, but the effects differ depending upon the person, environment and culture of drinking</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Training staff in responsible beverage service to reduce service to intoxicated patrons</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Formal regulations to support responsible beverage service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Training for staff to manage intoxicated patrons</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Reduce environmental irritants that provoke emotional or impulsive responses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patron characteristics</td>
<td>• Some patrons are more likely to be associated with risks and problems and will often reflect the nature of the venue</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Eliminate presence of most trouble-making patrons by:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Pub bans</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Risk assessments on repeat offenders</td>
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<td>• Door screening</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• House policies and staff practices that encourage patrons to assume a guardian role</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Risk factors in the environment
- Specific aspects of the venue are linked to aggression
- Risk assessment of venue
- Address aspects of physical design like cleanliness, ventilation, temperature and reduce intersecting pedestrian flows
- House policies should establish minimum dress standards and ban sexually explicit music lyrics

### Staff behaviour
- Staff play a crucial role, especially security staff
- Policies and culture of venue can set tone for staff behaviour
- Staff should be trained in preventing violence and managing incidents
- Establishing house policies to promote security staff as guardians and ensure prompt administrative responses to problems

### Spaces around drinking establishments
- While there is less evidence on the exact risk factors outside venues, there have been inter-agency partnerships that have reduced problems
- Licensing accords
- Safety audits including improved public transport, street lighting and the effective use of closed circuit television
- Minimise the number of patrons queuing
- Regulate flow of patrons between venues
- Identify and target hot spots and critical times

There are many practical examples of how these strategies are being implemented. The following just lists a small number of practical examples of relevant case studies, with reference to how relevant information about and resources from these case studies can be accessed.

1. **Design Guidelines for Licensed Venues**

2. **Liquor Licensing Accords**
   Various jurisdictions operate liquor licensing accords. Generally, these accords involve the voluntary participation of licensees, councils, transport providers, security companies, police and others involved in the regulation and management of licensed venues. In New South Wales, the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing (OLGR) is primarily responsible for regulating licensed venues. The OLGR has been actively promoting and helping to establish liquor licensing accords in recent years and has produced freely available resources ([http://www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/accords_home.asp](http://www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/accords_home.asp)). Some of the information contained on the OLGR website highlights the success that has been achieved in particular areas of New South Wales through accord and related activities.
3. **Alcohol Management Plans**

Patterns of alcohol consumption vary quite dramatically across the country. Some locations have much higher levels of consumption than the 10 litres per capita considered to be the average. Due to the higher rates of consumption and associated problems, some State and Territory governments have introduced (in some instances, somewhat controversially) Alcohol Management Plans for certain areas/towns. These plans are developed in response to local issues and include a variety of strategies which are generally clustered around the principles of supply reduction, harm reduction and demand reduction. The Alcohol Management Plan for Tennant Creek (Northern Territory) for example, includes 40 measures linked to 11 separate strategies, that include restrictions on takeaway sales, cessation of mail-order supply of alcohol in hampers, appointment of a locally-based licensing inspector, increasing activities for young people and re-development of a sobering up shelter (see d’Abbs et al, 2010 for a detailed discussion of the Tennant Creek Alcohol Management Plan).

While many of these preventive strategies are directed toward the management of venues, there have also been tremendous developments in the policing of licensed venues and alcohol-related crime in Australia in recent years. Some examples of relevant publications and practices include:

1. **Alcohol Policing Strategies**

Various policing organisations in Australia have developed specific Alcohol Policing Strategies. The Northern Territory Police confront numerous challenges in their response to alcohol-related crime. With high rates of alcohol consumption, a widely dispersed population and a substantial area to police, the Northern Territory Police are confronted by the ‘tyranny of distance’ in their efforts to prevent alcohol-related crime. The Northern Territory Alcohol Policing Strategy 2010-2012 sets broad strategic directions, including enhancing a safer community; increase awareness of unsafe and illegal supply practices and to increase licensed premises’ compliance with legislative responsibilities; reduce the incidence of under-age drinking and binge drinking; reduce the incidence of alcohol-related crime and antisocial behaviour in rural and remote communities; and reduce crime and incidents related to excessive alcohol consumption. The Strategy is available at: [http://www.nt.gov.au/pfes/documents/File/police/publications/strategic/Alcohol-Strategy-WEB.pdf](http://www.nt.gov.au/pfes/documents/File/police/publications/strategic/Alcohol-Strategy-WEB.pdf)


2. **Research Publications**

A number of excellent research publications have specifically focused on the policing of alcohol-related crime. Some of these reports include:

Concluding Remarks

The partial insights provided into crime prevention in Australia mask many other promising developments. No mention has been made regarding the significant advances in restorative justice practice and theory from Australia, or the innovative programs to address the major problem of family violence. Similarly, crimes like cybercrime, money laundering, identity theft, tax evasion, environmental crimes and so many others have received not attention here. These and many other limitations beset a task of this nature. Despite these limitations, there has been considerable progress made in crime prevention across Australia in recent decades. These developments cover the models of prevention, from developmental interventions, social programs, situational opportunities for crime and criminal justice initiatives. Australia has adopted and contributed to the growing recognition of the importance of early intervention. The Pathways to Prevention Project in Brisbane is an innovative, comprehensive attempt to embed early intervention principles and programs into a disadvantaged community. The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council has navigated difficult inter-agency relationships and contributed to reducing the theft of motor vehicles, improved national coordination of registration and improved law enforcement practices. The crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) movement has been embraced in Australian jurisdictions, with the development of design guidelines and planning controls. These tools now mean that there is a much greater likelihood that future developments will not contribute to crime and the associated training of design and policing professionals, auger well for future refinement and improvement of CPTED practices. With a significant culture of alcohol consumption and increases in the number of licensed venues in recent decades, it is unsurprising that Australia has had to address problems associated with alcohol-related crime. Substantial investments have been made in improving policing responses, tightening up the regulation of licensed venues, reducing irresponsible service of alcohol and improving the design of licensed venues in all Australian jurisdictions in the last decade. Many of these interventions are beginning to show promising results (see Jones et al, 2009).
However, it would be wrong to assume that all is encouraging with Australian crime prevention. Problems continue to bedevil Australian crime prevention practice, including:

- Limited investment in evaluation – English et al (2002: 121) found that that “... fewer than 10% of 170 state and territory crime prevention programs and projects identified had been evaluated”. It could be argued that similar problems remain, some nine years after this article was written.
- Continued need for improved data sharing - in 2004, Weatherburn suggested that “in many respects, ..., crime prevention has, in effect been ‘flying blind’”, due to a lack of detailed information about crime (2004: 162). Problems continue in the exchange of data between key agencies responsible for crime prevention. Many jurisdictions continue to operate without formal data sharing agreements to enable appropriate information to be readily shared.
- Ongoing commitment to capacity-building – a study in the late 1990s revealed that approximately 80% of crime prevention officers from around Australia who completed a training needs assessment, stated that they had received no more than six days training in crime prevention (Wyatt et al, 1999). It could be argued that there have only been limited improvements since this time (Homel, 2009).
- The changing winds of political commitment – Sutton (1997) has outlined the political nature of crime prevention. His comments are no less relevant today. Crime prevention in Australia continues to rise and fall on the whim of political actors, rather than achieving a solid footing alongside corrections, courts administration and police. Until this changes, crime prevention in Australia will continue to be hampered.
References


Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment (2005) Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne.


About the Sydney Institute of Criminology

The Sydney Institute of Criminology is a research centre based in the Sydney Law School specialising in criminology, criminal justice and criminal law. It is a commercial publishing house producing the international research journal Current Issues in Criminal Justice and the Institute of Criminology book series. Institute staff teach the Masters and Graduate Diploma in Criminology at the Sydney Law School and the Institute is committed to public and professional education more broadly. Staff of the Institute advise government and private organisations on matters of crime law and policy and sit on a range of public sector committees and advisory boards.

Further information can be found at: http://sydney.edu.au/law/criminology/index.shtml

Important Australian Crime Prevention (and Related) Websites

- Australian Institute of Criminology  
- Australian Crime Prevention Council  
- National Crime Prevention  
- Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse  
  http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/
- National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council  
- National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre  
  http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/
- National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF)  
- Australian Safe Communities Foundation  
  http://www.safecommunities.net.au/ascf/welcome.php
- Australian Federal Police E-Crime  
- Australian Transaction and Reports Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC)  
- Australian Security Industry Association Limited (ASIAL)  
- Australian National Security  