

# Voluntary Agencies

## Report

(Mrs. P. A. M. Mountain — Co-opted Member on National Executive representing Voluntary Agencies in Australia. Mrs. Mountain is also a Honorary Probation Officer.)

All States of Australia were circulated with a questionnaire from me on behalf of the A.C.P.C., National Executive in March, 1977, and again through the Secretariat in February, 1978.

Based on the following questions addressed to voluntary agencies.

1. An Outline of Agencies' Area of Work.
2. Expectations from A.C.P.C.
3. Criticism.
4. Suggestions for future programmes either at State or National level.

Response — Fair.

**A.C.T.** No voluntary Agencies registered.

**Tasmania.** Two Agencies registered — no replies received.

**South Australia.** One Agency registered — One reply.

**New South Wales.** Six Agencies registered — One acknowledgement — no replies.

**Northern Territory.** Four Agencies registered — One reply.

**Queensland.** Eight Agencies registered — Three replies.

**Victoria.** Seven Agencies Registered — Four replies.

**Western Australia.** Two Agencies Registered — Two replies.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

#### **Prisoners' Aid Association.**

101a Stirling Highway,  
North Fremantle,  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 6160.  
Telephone: 35 1447.

#### **Services.**

Run hostel for ex-prisoners. Collect clothing and limited job assistance for men.

#### **Civil Rehabilitation Council (of Western Australia Inc.)**

Box T1615 G.P.O.  
Perth,  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA. 6001.  
Telephone: 25 2530.

#### **Services.**

1. Support to prisoners and their families whilst in prison and also on release. Support — financial, counselling, monetary help with employment, rent, clothing and debts incurred by prisoners and their families.
2. Staffing of visitors waiting room to offer support and advice to families and friends of prisoners.

### QUEENSLAND.

#### **4C's. — Community Crime Check Campaign (Gold Coast Branch)**

Superintendent's Office,  
Police Station,  
Surfer's Paradise,  
QUEENSLAND. 4217.

**Aims.** To create and motivate the public in community and individual responsibility for the prevention of crime.

#### **Methods.**

1. Having 4 C's included in the school curriculum.
2. Being "seen" by the community by use of pamphlets and films — by involving the community.
3. Identification of 'preventable' crimes currently being given attention by 4 C's.  
House breaking  
Burglary  
In-store theft  
Child molestation  
Female protection  
Car stealing  
Business cash — carrying

4. A belief that crime is a social problem that directly or indirectly affects the entire community, and therefore should be the responsibility of the whole community.

#### **Marist College.**

P.O. Box 82,  
Ashgrove  
QUEENSLAND. 4060.

**Aim.** To educate the Colleges' students in the principles and responsibilities of the Criminal Justice System.

#### **Windsor Opportunity School — Parents & Citizens Association.**

6/110 Stoneleigh Street,  
Windsor,  
QUEENSLAND. 4030.

#### **Aim.**

1. To aim for the implementation of curricula subjects dealing with:-
  - (a) The Legislative that makes the Law.
  - (b) The Police Department that enforces the Law.
  - (c) The Judicial System that interprets the Law at both Primary and Secondary Level.
2. To create a better public relationship and image of the Police Force and the Court of Law.
3. Increasing community involvement in these aims.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

#### **Offenders Aid & Rehabilitation Services of South Australia Inc.**

(O.A.R.S.)  
222 Halifax Street,  
ADELAIDE,  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA. 5000.  
Telephone: 223 1988.

#### **Services.**

Prison visitation and Welfare Services to prisons throughout South Australia. Male and Female post-release accommodation for Adult Males and Females and Juveniles. Special aboriginal programme offering accommodation and employment and welfare officer support.

O.A.R.S., offers extensive counselling and welfare services to prisoners and their families throughout South Australia.

**Publications.** Quarterly newsletter — "Release".

### NORTHERN TERRITORY

#### **Y.W.C.A.**

P.O. Box 2586,  
DARWIN,  
NORTHERN TERRITORY. 5794.  
Telephone: 81 8644.

#### **Services.**

Work with women, youths and children throughout the Darwin area. Conduct after school programmes for primary school children and holiday programmes for children of working parents. Preventative support for youth who may otherwise be "at risk" in the community.

### VICTORIA

#### **Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders**

(V.A.C.R.O.)  
"Clarke House",  
121 Lygon Street,  
CARLTON SOUTH,  
VICTORIA. 3053.

Telephone: (03) 347 5282 or 347 3462.

#### **Services.**

V.A.C.R.O., operates in the area of specific needs of prisoners, their wives and children. They offer welfare services both in prison and on release. V.A.C.R.O. has a house opposite Pentridge Prison which is open seven days a week, 9.30 am - 4.30 pm., which offers crèche facilities and support for the families of prisoners. They also operate an information desk in the remand section. Acts as a public forum on matters of penology.

**Publications.** Quarterly newsletter "The Bridge".  
**Mission to the Streets and Lanes of Melbourne.**

Cnr. Webb and Napier Streets,  
FITZROY,  
VICTORIA. 3065.  
Telephone: 41 6507 or 41 4603.

### Services.

The Mission to Streets and Lanes is a welfare agency of the Church of England with special reference to the women and children of Melbourne. Family Counselling Services with attendant services such as Family Aide and Emergency Accommodation. Operates a residential centre for disturbed young teenagers. The Mission has a court welfare officer attending court each day. The Mission provides emergency accommodation for lone women and girls with a special interest in those being involved in the court system or being released from prison.

**Publications.** Regular newsletter — "Salt"

**Probation Officers Association of Victoria.** (P.O.A.V.)

Box 634 E, G.P.O.,

MELBOURNE,

VICTORIA. 3001.

Telephone: 602 1226.

### Services.

The P.O.A.V., is an independent association of Probation Officers — mainly of Honorary Probation Officers which provides a service of back-up support and resources for all probation officers throughout Victoria. The P.O.A.V. has 23 branches throughout the State for probation officers working both within the Welfare System and the Criminal Justice System. The Ballarat Branch of the P.O.A.V. runs two homes for girls in need of care. Amongst its members the P.O.A.V. attend courts, police stations — provide support and counselling for those on probation and many others; thereby acting in a preventative role.

**Publication.** Quarterly newsletter "The Probation Officer".

### CRITICISMS.

The siting of the A.C.P.C. Secretariat in Queensland as opposed to Canberra raised many objections amongst voluntary agencies. The reasons given were:-

(a) that this position, i.e., in Queensland makes it appear inaccessible.

(b) that it is remote from any Department of Criminology, and from the Australian Institute of Criminology.

(c) that it is too far removed from people engaged in the practical side of Crime Prevention.

(d) that more influence could be brought to bear on the Federal Government of the day, when social legislation is being enacted which impinges on penal matters if it were situated in Canberra.

More voluntary organization representation.

### EXPECTATIONS.

1. That A.C.P.C. have as its prime goal an acceptance of uniform standards throughout Australia on all matters pertaining to jurisprudence, especially of the criminal variety and penology in general.

2. That A.C.P.C. (because of its autonomy) — monitor the content of the conferences and the persons visiting (by invitation), the Australian Institute of Criminology. Is it catering for Australian needs? Is the Institute researching and training Australian programmes and personnel?

3. To increase provision of research and expert ideas and information in the Criminal Justice Field.

4. To provide the opportunity to exchange views and experiences with others involved in the same field, and in crime prevention generally.

5. To arrange for the new A.C.P.C., Journal to include articles and material directly related to the role of volunteers in the Criminal Justice System, their particular contribution, their training, etc.

6. To supply news (again through the Journal) of the work of other volunteer programmes in the Criminal Justice System in Australia.

7. To provide more balanced representation on A.C.P.C., between voluntary and statutory bodies.

### CONFERENCE SUGGESTIONS.

1. By including in every biennial conference topics directly related to the role of volunteers in the Criminal Justice System — their particular contribution, training and general use of volunteers.

2. Because of Voluntary Organization Delegates' expenses to Biennial Conference, it was suggested that in the programme for the conference, ample space be given to:-

(a) The practical aspects of effective after-care procedures.

(b) Successful methods of securing community involvement in rehabilitation.

(c) Proven methods of funding voluntary agencies.

3. More effective use of the Conference to enable individuals from similar disciplines to meet together in special interest groups as well as in the wider context of discussion.

### SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXECUTIVE.

1. That there be greater representation both at National and State levels of a much greater variety of disciplines plus voluntary agencies than are now represented.

2. From Northern Territory.

Could the Federal Body of the A.C.P.C. bring some pressure to bear on the appropriate authority to improve detention facilities particularly for women and youth in the Northern Territory.

3. From Western Australia.

Request from C.R.C. for new ideas on alternative punishment such as works programmes.

— suggests John McKay might advise on this.

4. That the comments on the Biennial Conference be taken into account by the Conference Committee.

### COMMENTS.

I am disappointed at the lack of replies from New South Wales, especially when one person represents three out of five agencies. I am also disappointed at the poor response from Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

I was surprised to find that agencies such as the Honorary Probation Officers in Tasmania and Western Australia are not members of A.C.P.C. I was also surprised to learn that the J'sP of Victoria (or any other State) were not registered as a voluntary agency.

I have been asked to congratulate the A.C.P.C. Executive on its Journal, "Forum" and on its most impressive and commendable debut. I have also been asked to commend the Executive in the genuine endeavours to assist voluntary organizations.

**Penelope A. M. Mountain.**

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