

# Western Australian Branch



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(West Australian Branch)*

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## REPORT ON THE WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH ACTIVITIES FOR THE TWO YEAR PERIOD ENDING 30th JUNE 1979

The Executive Committee of the West Australian Branch held ten Committee meetings during the period under review.

Six public seminars were arranged and attendance at these meetings in each instance was between 50 — 100. The seminar topics were as follows:—

- 23.11.77 Juvenile Panels — A New Focus
- 24. 4.78 Has The Media a Role in Crime Prevention
- 31. 7.78 The Family Court, Marriage Counselling and the Family  
(Mr. I. Jenkins, Director, Marriage Guidance for New Zealand. Churchill Fellow).
- 31. 8.78 Bail Hostels in Britain and their relevance to Australia.  
(Mr. R. Christie, Under Secretary of Law (West Australia))
- 19. 4.79 Drug Abuse — Is there an answer?  
(Dr. T. Bowley, Dean of The Royal College of Psychiatrists, London)
- 25. 6.79 Aborigines and the Law  
(Mr. T. Syddall, Stipendiary Magistrate, (West Australia))

Public attendance at the West Australian seminars has been extremely good throughout and this has been largely due to good press coverage either before or after seminars, experimenting with the time seminars are held (now settled at 5pm to 6.30pm), and the occasional wine and cheese evening that follows a seminar.

The policy of the West Australian Executive Committee has been to not only foster seminars that will interest the converted and professionals already engaged in preventative work, but to stimulate interest in the wider community too.

During 1978 a visit was paid to Perth by National Vice President Mr. P.F.E. Johnston and the Executive Director Mr. J.H. Purcell. Both attended the seminar held in Perth on 27th April 1978 and their presence was appreciated.

The West Australian Branch has now improved its status in the criminal justice field and I feel is seen as a more vital entity, locally. Membership is gradually increasing and the Branch's finances are in a healthy condition. It is anticipated that in the next two years a concentrated drive will be made with a view to broadening the basis of membership, particularly as regards voluntary organisations and organisations associated with young people.

The Executive Committee elected for the 1979-80 period is as follows:

Chairman, and West Australian  
Delegate to the National Council  
Deputy Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Committee

Mr. I.M. Vodanovich  
Mr. H. Wallwork  
Mr. D.R. Mansfield  
Mr. C.A. Blanchard  
Mr. R.M. Christie  
Mr. I. Hill  
Mr. J. George

# New South Wales Branch



## N.S.W. BRANCH REPORT

The year following the election of the present Executive on 28th July, 1978, has been a somewhat disappointing period for the N.S.W. Branch with the publication of the Ninth National Conference Report of the Australian Crime Prevention Council being long delayed, membership increasing but slightly, the important and major Crime Prevention Seminar on Police and the Community having to be postponed and within the past month, news being received that the 1980 United Nations Congress has had to be relocated away from Sydney and Australia.

The Branch has, however, also been involved in some initiatives, such as recommending to the Minister for Social Security, the Hon. Senator M. Guilfoyle, M.P., that special benefit payments be made for prisoners held on remand. The Minister's reply that remand prisoners are ineligible for any benefits because they cannot be held to be in financial need for the purposes of the Social Services Act, since they are being fully maintained free of charge while in goal, has led to the Branch forming a Sub-Committee on 26th April, 1979, to investigate this matter, in particular, the position of remand prisoners with commitments and to draft a reply to the Minister for consideration by the Branch.

Other initiatives have been to investigate the possibility of the Branch holding a Crime Prevention Week and to co-operate with the National Executive of the A.C.P.C. in a National Survey of Women Prisons to ascertain if women prisoners have the rights, opportunities and facilities and standards of conditions as set down in the standard minimum Rules of the United Nations. With the generous co-operation of the Department of Corrective Services, the Branch was able to forward to the National Convenor, Dame Phyllis Frost a very comprehensive report on the standard of women's prisons in this State.

The Branch was able to hold a very enjoyable Christmas Soiree on 6th December, 1978.

On 22nd September, 1978, a Dinner Meeting was held at the University Club at which John McAvoy, a Parole and Probation Officer, was the guest speaker. Mr. McAvoy, a Parole and Probation Officer, was the guest speaker. Mr. McAvoy had just returned from a study overseas of the effectiveness of Community Service Orders as a sentencing alternative, and this was the subject of his informative address. The major information Seminar proposed by the Branch was on "Crime Prevention — Police and Citizens" a crucial subject scheduled for 19th June, 1979. At the last moment it had to be postponed. It is now to be held on 23rd October, 1979, with the same speakers.

The advent of the "A.C.P.C. Forum" quarterly magazine