

Western Australian Branch



Mr. K. Williams
Mr. J. Kirkman

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Branch Chairman
Australian Crime Prevention Council
(West Australian Branch)

10th August 1979

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 Aboriginals 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 cooperate 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

was welcomed by members. It was especially well received by N.S.W. members, two of whom, Mrs. M. North and Mr. A. Restuccia, moved the motion which was carried unanimously at the Ninth National Conference for the publicising of the Council and its activities in the media and the issuing of an informative quarterly newsletter. Contributions to maintain its high standard would be welcomed by Mr. J. Purcell, Executive Director, who is the Editor. Minutes of Branch meetings have been forwarded to the National Secretariat.

Suggestions for the transfer of the operation of the National Secretariat from Nobbys Beach were considered but not favoured by the Branch. Our State Representative, Inspector Reg Holles has attended the National Council Meetings. The election by the National Council of our two ex-officio members — Mr. F.D. Hayes and Mr. K. Michaelis as life members of the Council was fully deserved and well received by this Branch.

Much time and effort have been applied this year in finalising the remaining administrative aspects of the Ninth National Conference. The sum of \$5,000.00 received from the National Council for conference preparations and planning has been fully repaid. The conference resulted in a financial benefit to Branch funds, primarily due to the efforts of volunteers and donations received. The preparation and distribution of the permanent Conference Report of Proceedings, a foolscap publication of 203 pages, was finally achieved with distribution being effected to donors, speakers and delegates whose contribution had made this conference an outstanding success. Additional copies of the Report are available from the Branch Secretary at a cost of \$6.00, plus postage.

The Tenth National Conference has been scheduled for Hobart, Tasmania, from 13–17th August, 1979. Two members — Mr. A. Restuccia and Mrs. M. North will be attending as Branch delegates.

The recent news of the transfer of the Sixth U.N. Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders of 1980 from Sydney, was disappointing. Prior to this information, the Branch had appointed Mr. A. Lane as its delegate to the Hospitality Committee set up to assist, in particular, overseas and interstate visitors to the Congress. A liaison had also been established between the Branch Secretary and the N.S.W. Congress Committee. Following an invitation to members, the Branch had, as requested, nominated to the State Attorney General, members available for inclusion in the Australian Delegation to the Congress.

The Executive had held ten meetings in the past year, meetings at which all Branch members have been invited. Meeting times were altered to 5.20pm. Non-Executive members have attended meetings.

Appreciation is expressed to our Patrol, the Hon. F.D. Walker, LL.M., M.P., Attorney General for N.S.W., Mr. T. Haines, the Under Secretary of the Department of Attorney General and of Justice, Mr. M. Bennett, Mrs. M. Fields, Radio 2SM, our Executive and Branch members who have assisted in the development and progress of the Branch during the last year.

The objectives and ideals of the Australian Crime Prevention Council are most worthy. It is to be hoped that with an extension of membership and the introduction of a Crime Prevention Week, the significance of crime prevention in combating the principal co-ordinating body in the field of criminal justice, to challenge any community apathy in this regard.

South Australian Branch



S.A. BRANCH REPORT

Following the Annual General Meeting the Branch Committee has held regular monthly meetings, and arranged the following:

1. Seminar — Administration of Criminal Justice in South Australia.

Held in November, 1977, the seminar was arranged in conjunction with the Department of Continuing Education at Adelaide University. Speakers were the Hon. D. Simmons, Chief Secretary, the Hon. J. Burdett, shadow Attorney General and Mr. C.K. Stuart, S.S.M., Adelaide Magistrates Court.

Government and Opposition speakers outlines their policies and Mr. Stuart, gave the most entertaining speech on short comings in criminal justice, especially in the juvenile field. Attendance at the seminar was good.

2. Seminar — Relationship between Schools, Education and Crime.

This seminar, organised by the Committee was held in March, 1978. Guest speakers represented Police, Education Department, Parents Association and Teachers Institute. Good participation and subsequent publicity of the topic made the seminar a success.

3. Seminar — Probation and Parole.

Held at the University on 1st August, 1978, and arranged with the Department of Continuing Education, this seminar made use of the presence in Adelaide of the Chief Probation Officers from all the states at their annual meeting. The theme was on alternatives to imprisonment, and various alternatives were outlined to the seminar. As South Australia was to enact new legislation in a Treatment of Offenders Act, this seminar was timely.

Other matters pursued by the Committee was to enquire about a Crime Prevention Programme run by the Kiwanis, provision of Crime Prevention material from the Police Department to the Chamber of Commerce for publication in their journal, and preparation of material for further school based seminars on delinquency, etc.

The 1978 Annual General meeting was called for 19th September, 1978, but because of poor attendance and the resignation of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer an election was not held.

After a short recess a general meeting and election of officers was called for 20th February, 1979.

Because of the enthusiasm of His Honour Judge L.K. Newman and a membership drive instigated membership of Branch grew from 23 in January to 58 by the end of February and 73 by the end of March.

ELECTIONS — 20th February, 1979

Branch Chairman	Mr. G. Joseph
Vice Chairman	Mr. K. Cameron Stuart S.S.M.
Secretary	Mr. R.J. Kidney
Treasurer	Mr. N. Smith
S.A. Representative to Nat. Exec.	His Honour Judge L.K. Newman
Committee Members	Inspector A. Copeland
	Dr. W.A. Dibden
	Mr. L.D. Draper
	Miss H.E. Nichols