

# MEET NATIONAL EXECUTIVE APRIL 1980

## REPORT OF COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE

This report brings up-to-date my report to the last meeting of the National Executive, a copy of same follows:

Developments include the following:

- a) The Commonwealth subsidy to the Council for 1979-80 was \$28,000.
- b) I appeared before the Senate Estimates Committee in September 1979, but on this occasion no questions were asked about the Commonwealth's subsidy to the Council.
- c) I have had a number of discussions with the Commonwealth Attorney-General about the financial position of the Council and the Commonwealth's subsidy to the Council for the year 1980-81.
- d) An application for an increased subsidy for the year 1980-81 has been made to Interdepartmental Standing Committee on Grants-in-Aid. The outcome of this application is not yet known.

I draw attention again to the level of State contributions to the Council vis-a-vis the Commonwealth. An increase in the level of State funding would seem to be desirable. As a minimum it would seem to be desirable that funding of the Council should keep pace with inflationary increases.

In relation to the publication Forum, I have noted the development of this publication with much interest and would urge the Council to support its further development and dissemination (including the further editing of bound volumes and dissemination to public and departmental libraries).

It would also be useful for the Council to consider the feasibility of sponsoring further study groups on matters of current interest (Cf. Conditional Liberty Report by Mr. Justice McClemens, Mr. Hayes and other). In particular, I suggest that consideration be given to the establishment of study groups to report in detail on the administrative processes or other measures that would be required to implement the recommendations contained in Resolutions 2, 4 and 6 of the Tenth Biennial Conference. I would propose that action on the resolutions should not await the receipt of responses from the Branches and that the National Executive should proceed to take any follow-up action through desirable.

F.R. Loof  
Commonwealth Government  
Co-opted representative

## REPORT OF COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE

This report is concerned with the Commonwealth subsidy paid by the Commonwealth to the Council.

### Historical Outline

The Commonwealth subsidy to the Council from 1971 to 1973 was \$2,500 per annum. In 1974, the subsidy was raised to \$28,000 per annum to establish a National Secretariat. During the financial year 1977-78, an ex gratia payment of \$6,000 was made to the Council to assist it in meeting its commitments. The budget allocation for the Council for 1978-79 was \$28,000. A further Commonwealth subsidy has been sought for the Council for the financial year 1979-80.

### Level of Commonwealth Grant Vis-a-Vis State Contributions

It has been recognised that the original grant of \$28,000 paid by the Commonwealth has been eroded in real terms

because of cost of living increases. However, it has not been possible to obtain an increase in the subsidy, apart from the ex gratia amount paid in 1977-78. When the increase in the subsidy was approved in 1974, the then Treasurer indicated that it should be made clear to the Council that the Australian Government did not accept an unlimited underwriting role in relation to the Council's administrative costs. He said that it would follow from this that any increase in the cost of running the Secretariat would not necessarily imply an increase in the Commonwealth Government's subvention. The Treasurer also suggested that it would not be unreasonable to suggest that the States might also increase their contributions to the Council. Currently the subsidy is considered each year by the Standing Interdepartmental Committee on Grants-in-Aid. This Committee has expressed the view, in relation to applications for increase in the subsidy, that there is scope for considerable increases in financial support from the States.

The Commonwealth Attorney-General wrote to the State Attorneys-General in March 1978 urging them to give favourable consideration to an increase in State contributions to the Council's funds. The Attorney-General pointed out that the Council consisted of representatives from the judiciary and from most organisations in Australia, both governmental and private, that are concerned with crime prevention and the treatment of offenders. He said that the Council membership also included individual members, including laymen and professionals from a variety of disciplines. He expressed the view that it was highly important for governments to encourage the utilisation of these voluntary resources and initiatives and assist them to make a contribution, by way of seminars, study groups and other activities, to improve methods of crime prevention and treatment of offenders. The Attorney-General received replies from the State Attorneys-General indicating that favourable consideration would be given to this request and some increases in State contributions appear to have resulted.

### Senate Estimates Committee

The annual subsidy to the Council is considered each year by the Senate Estimates Committee. The questions asked by the Committee cover a variety of aspects. Typical questions are as follows:

"How long has the Council been functioning and is there any way to determine the efficacy of this Council?"

"I would like you to elaborate on the permanent secretariat's job in fully utilising the reservoir of voluntary resources now available to the Council?"

"What contributions are made by the States to the Council's funds?"

"To what extent does the work of the Council coincide with, or overlap, the work of the Australian Institute of Criminology?"

In relation to the work of the Council and its effectiveness, I have informed the Senate Committee as follows:

"The Council, which has been operating for some years, originally was established as the Australian Prison After Care Council and, over the course of time, the functions of the Council have been expanded to incorporate the areas of crime prevention as well as the area of treatment of offenders. The Council is a non-governmental body, but it does represent virtually every organisation, both governmental and private, that is concerned with crime prevention and the treatment of offenders. Consequently, the Council does have as members, prison departments, police departments, probation and parole

authorities, as well as prisoner's aid associations, church groups and other bodies. The Council has the function of stimulating interest among its membership in the problem of crime prevention and control, in such a way as to enable people at the grass roots level to express views about the treatment of offenders and the prevention of crime, and to give those people a forum in order to allow them to direct matters to the attention of governments. In addition to that, the Council holds seminars and conferences and conducts study groups. The conferences are normally arranged on the basis that speakers will be invited from overseas and from within Australia. Papers from these conferences are produced in book form and provide a very useful source of material for people concerned with crime prevention and control in Australia. In addition, the Council sets up study groups, chaired, for example, by a Supreme Court Judge, with other people assisting him. These study groups have produced reports which have been of considerable value to governments — for example, the setting up of the parole system in New South Wales — and for other purposes.

It is difficult to evaluate in real terms the effectiveness of a body such as the Council, but I am able to give as an example the report of the study group on conditional liberty, which, as I understand it, was a report of very great significance in the establishment of the parole service in New South Wales".

In relation to the question of overlap by the Council of the Institute of Criminology I said —

"There is an overlap certainly, in the general sense, but the Institute of Criminology is set up to provide services for governments, and to provide research, and to undertake courses of training for governments. The Commonwealth and State Governments have in the Institute their own research and training body. On the other hand, the Australian Crime Prevention Council is a body that is set up on a non-governmental basis, and its great virtue is that it enlists the resources of people working in the field and enables those people to get together in a voluntary capacity and make their own contributions. So therefore it is a body which provides the maximum opportunity for individuals to voice an interest in these particular matters as distinct from governments.

The Government sees the Council as a very useful body, established on a national level and representing all relevant agencies, to consider the implementation of the research results and the results of seminars of the Institute. In this sense, there is a close relationship between the Institute and the Crime Prevention Council in that members of the Crime Prevention Council are often to be found attending seminars, and there is consultation between the two bodies with the end result of having the results of the Institute's work readily adopted by State authorities.

*Senator EVANS* — Is there any obvious reason why, given the existence of the Institute of Criminology, that might not take over what appear to be the essentially administrative tasks performed by the Crime Prevention Council?

*Mr. LOOF* — We feel that this would be inappropriate because the Crime Prevention Council is a non-governmental body established essentially to serve the interests of voluntary resources which would enable the people working in the field to contribute. In contrast, the Institute of Criminology has been set up to serve governmental interests. There is a clear distinction between the two."

**P.R. Loof**

## **VOLUNTARY AGENCIES REPORT**

On the 27th February, 1980, all voluntary Agencies in Australia were circulated with a letter from me, through the courtesy of the secretaries of A.C.P.C. State Branches. I would like to thank all the State secretaries for their help with this, with the exception of the Queensland Branch, who refused to co-operate.

Following this report are copies of:

1. Letter to Voluntary Agencies;
2. Letter to Branch Secretaries;

## **UPDATED LIST OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES:**

### **Western Australia**

#### *Prisoners' Aid Association*

101a Stirling Highway, North Fremantle, W.A. 6160.

Telephone: 35 1447.

*Services:* Run Hostel for ex-prisoners. Collect clothing and limited job assistance for men.

#### *Civic Rehabilitation Council* (of Western Australia inc.)

Box T1615 GPO, Perth, W.A. 6001. Telephone: 25 2530.

*Services:* 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.

Staffing of visitors waiting room to offer support and advice to families and friends of prisoners.

#### Council of Social Service of Western Australia Inc.

##### *Voluntary Court Welfare Service*

11 Freedman Road, Mt. Lawley, W.A. 6050. Telephone: 271 0903.

*Services:* The Voluntary Court Welfare Service was established with the aim of providing a link between the Courts and the community, as well as offering support to defendants and their families within the Court Setting.

The Voluntary Court Welfare Service now operates in the two city courts of Petty Sessions — East Perth and Beaufort Street — as well as Fremantle Court, Rockingham Court and Perth Children's Court.

#### *Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia Inc.*

No reply received.

### **Queensland**

#### *Marist College*

PO Box 82, Ashgrove, Qld. 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, Qld. 4030.

*Aim:* 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.

To create a better public relationship and image of the Police Force and the Court of Law.

Increasing community involvement in these aims.

#### *Women's Christian Temperance Union of Queensland*

Box 170, GPO, Brisbane. 4001. Telephone: 21 0127.

An organisation concerned with a broad programme to protect home and family life, to uphold a good moral standard in the community, and to promote the alcohol-free way of life. Other of their departments are named anti-narcotics, anti-gambling, legislation, T.V., films and radio.

#### *Catholic Family Welfare Bureau*

No reply received.

#### *Catholic Media Office*

No reply received.

#### *North Queensland Prisoners' Aid Society*

Townsville Branch — No reply received.

#### *Queensland Deaf Society*

No reply received.

## Australian Capital Territory

### *Civil Rehabilitation Committee, Canberra*

No reply received.

## Tasmania

### *Prisoners' Aid and Rehabilitation Society of Tasmania*

No reply received

### *Tasmanian Council of Churches*

No reply received

## South Australia

### *Offenders Aid & Rehabilitation Services of South Australia, inc. (O.A.R.S.)*

222 Halifax Street, Adelaide, S.A. 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".

### *Adelaide Central Mission*

No reply received

### *People for Alcohol Concern & Education*

No reply received

## New South Wales

### *Aboriginal Welfare Group of P.A.A.*

No reply received

### *Australian Institute of Welfare Officers – National Executive*

No reply received

### *Australian Institute of Welfare Officers – N.S.W. Branch*

No reply received

### *Association of Civil Rehabilitation Committees*

No reply received

### *Newcastle Youth Service*

No reply received

### *Prisoners Aid Association of N.S.W.*

No reply received

### *The Salvation Army – Eastern Territory*

No reply received

## Northern Territory

*Y.W.C.A.*, PO Box 2586, Darwin, N.T. 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.

### *Darwin & District Y.M.C.A. Youth Clubs*

No reply received

### *Family Planning Association*

No reply received

## Victoria

### *Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (V.A.C.R.O.)*

"Clarke House", 121 Lygon Street, Carlton House, Vic. 3053. Telephone: (03) 347 5282; 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, 9.30am – 4.30pm, which offers creche facilities and support for the families of prisoners. They also operate an information desk in the remand section. Acts as public forum on matters of penology.

*Publications.* Quarterly newsletter "The Bridge".

### *Mission to the Streets and Lanes of Melbourne*

Cnr. Webb & Napier Streets, Fitzroy, Vic. 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 long 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 634E, Melbourne. Vic. 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 through Victoria. The P.O.A.V. has 21 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 of probation and many others, thereby acting in a preventative role.

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

### *Four Flats Hawthorn*

PO Box 240, Hawthorn, 3122. Telephone: 818 2446.

*Administering Organisation:* Catholic Church

*Management Committee:* Rev. Peter Nordern, S.J. (Chairman) Tel: 347 6366.

*Project Director:* Mr. David Murray, (Tel: 8182446)

*Service Provided:* Four Flats, established in 1977, is a post release unit providing assistance to 17-21 year old offenders being released from correctional institutions within Victoria.

Four Flats staff of six workers provides pre-release counselling within the institutions to a variety of young offenders during the three – six months prior to their release.

For some of this group, Four Flats provides post-release accommodation immediately following release within the Four Flats residence, at a cost of \$25.00 per week.

For others within the programme is purely voluntary on the part of the ex-offenders. Individual, group and family counselling is available within the programme.

Employment counselling and job placement is an important element of the resettlement programme.

Following a stay of between one or three months following release, Four Flats staff offer the availability of continuing support and assistance for ex-offenders living within the community.

*Referral:* Notification of potential residents is preferred at an early stage as possible. Approximately half of the referrals are self-referred or peer referred. With a residential capacity of eight, it is not possible to accept all referrals into the residential programme. Those with whom the staff have had prior contact before release are given preference over late referrals.

*Fairlea Women's Prison Council*

No reply received

*Melbourne Metropolitan Y.M.C.A.*

No reply received

*The Mission of St. James & St. John*

No reply received

None of the voluntary agencies has requested me to present any business on their behalf.

I am still-endeavouring to compile a directory of Voluntary Agencies in Criminal Justice, because, I believe —

1. It would provide agencies with an opportunity to exchange views and experiences with others involved in the same field.
  2. In Australia we do not appear to have any idea of the time and money volunteers contribute to the criminal justice system.
  3. We need a reference for agencies planning to embark on a new service.
  4. It may help us to identify the gaps between the Government programmes and the voluntary agencies programmes.
- I find it quite distressing that we haven't any information at all from two States — Tasmania and New South Wales.

I have two requests:—

1. Would each State branch consider having one meeting a year (at least) on the work of the voluntary agencies within the criminal justice system?
2. Would the State representative on the National Executive be responsible for supplying me with the name(s) and address(es) of the person in each government, who may have these agencies registered?

I would sincerely like to thank the Probation Officers' Association for allowing me the use of their Office and stationery, and their Secretary, Mrs. Duncan, who so willingly typed and duplicated for me.

**Penelope A.M. Mountain**

2 John Street,  
Kew. 3101  
Victoria

27th February, 1980

Dear

Please would you send a copy of the enclosed letter to each of your Voluntary Agencies registered, and any others you may wish to recruit.

I would appreciate any help or constructive comments that you can give me, in my efforts to establish this Directory of Voluntary Agencies in Criminal Justice in Australia.

Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Penelope A.M. Mountain,  
A.C.P.C. National Executive,  
Co-opted Member representing Voluntary Agencies

2 John Street,  
Kew. 3101  
27th February, 1980

Dear Fellow Volunteer,

As your representative on the National Executive, I wish to present your points of view on areas of interest at the next National Executive Meeting in Melbourne on April 19th, 1980.

Please would you advise me of any matter you wish me to raise on your behalf?

Since August, 1978 I have not received any correspondence from any of you.

I would like to refer you to my report of August, 1978, on the attempt to create the first directory of Voluntary Agencies in Australia.

A.C.T. — No Voluntary Agencies registered. (I have since been advised that there are 30 Agencies in the A.C.T.)

TASMANIA — Two Agencies registered — No replies.

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.

As you can see, our response was poor. I am aware that many of us do not have at our disposal the resources that statutory bodies do, that letters have to be hand-written or typed one finger at the end of the day, but I also know that there are a lot of people in the community working hard in many areas which could be covered by the term "Volunteers in Criminal Justice".

If the A.C.T., which has no agencies registered as members of A.C.P.C., can find there are 30 agencies within the community, how many do we have in Australia?

Please support my endeavour to create this directory of Voluntary Agencies. It can only help to support our mutual work. I would like to request that you make one meeting this year in your State on the work of Voluntary Agencies — maybe this will encourage all those "hidden agencies" to come forward and tell us of their work.

To those of you who have given me descriptions of your Agency's area of work — Thank you.

To those of you who have not — WHY NOT?

To those of you who are new members — Welcome aboard. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Please, if possible, would you reply by April 2nd.

Yours sincerely,  
Penelope A.M. Mountain

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