



# FOREWORD

**By His Honour  
Judge R.W. Grubb,  
National President**

## FORUM FOREWORD

In the preceding issue of this Journal, we have published the papers presented at the excellent 12th Biennial Conference held at St John's College, University of Queensland, in September 1983. Our purpose in so doing is to share their content with the wider membership reached by "Forum".

The Editor, our Executive Director, John Purcell, has arranged with our printers for following editions of "Forum", this year, to contain the papers presented at the 10th and 11th Biennial Conferences. Few of those papers have previously been published, for reasons unfortunately quite beyond our control.

If the Secretariat receives sufficient orders to justify the action, Mr Purcell proposes to have the papers from those three Conferences, bound in one volume, which will be available for sale to Libraries, Members, Branches, kindred Organisations and the Public. Orders should be placed with the Secretariat.

## OUR NATIONAL FUTURE?

I pose that as a question, very deliberately. I warn you, it is in grave doubt. The Honourable the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth, Senator Gareth Evans, has expressed to me the view that this Council may not be entitled to further Commonwealth funding. As you will all recall, the National Secretariat of this Council was established in 1974 (and has been maintained ever since, with nary an increase) by an annual grant from the Australian Government of \$28,000. Our only other sources of income are (1) the modest grants we receive from all States and the Northern Territory; (2) our membership subscriptions, which as you will all know, the last Biennial General Meeting voted to increase; and (3) whatever small amounts are raised from the sale of the bound copies of the proceedings of the Biennial Conferences.

The only reason seized and relied upon by the Attorney-General (and, I presume, his advisers) for expressing the view he has now conveyed to me, is that *one* of the seven bases upon which the grant was first sought has, in the Attorney's view, been abandoned by the Council. It seems to me that he and his advisers brush aside, as inconsequential, my submission that these bases were set down in 1974 by the then President of the Council, Mr Justice McClemens. Undoubtedly, they were relevant then. I am astonished that, in 1984, it should be argued that it is improper for us to have made any changes — rather, as it is suggested, but one change!

I am dumbfounded by the suggestion that, because of that alleged "impropriety", this Council is no longer fit to receive its annual grant from the Commonwealth Government. Surely, it is reasonable to expect that in the course of ten years there would (and should) be change. Apparently not.

You need no words of mine to make clear that without our Commonwealth Grant we will be unable to maintain the Secretariat. We will be obliged to discharge our Executive Director. We will have no money, properly to pay him. If he goes, "Forum" must go too. We will be obliged to abandon our National form and identity.

If, in the light of all this, you share my alarm and concern, I urge you to communicate your concern to Senator Evans, and to his Department.

As I wrote in the last issue, I can think of no other organisation, so long and so actively concerned with Crime Prevention, which, at such little cost, brings together such a wide-ranging "mix" of like-minded people — concerned members of the Public, Corporations, Students, Academics, Police, Correctional Service Officers, Probation and Parole Officers, Victimologists, Insurers, Commissioners, Lawyers, Magistrates and Judges, at the District, Supreme and Federal level. I am the first to admit that some of our Branches are far more active than some others. Two are moribund. However, the fact cannot be gainsaid, this Council, at the National and the Branch level, does bring together so many concerned people. It provides them with a forum, as well as with the "Forum", in which all may be heard. I am convinced all this, indeed all that for which we stand and for which we work, is too valuable lightly to be cast aside. I hope those are your sentiments.

## 13th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

In my foreword to the last issue I gave you advance information of the 13th Biennial Conference. The Victorian Branch are the hosts and the organisers. I have had word from Dennis Challenger, Chairman of the Victorian Branch, telling me that, as a start, accommodation for up to 150 participants has been booked at Newman College, University of Melbourne for the period *26 to 30 August, 1985*. Please make a note; keep that time free; and join us in Melbourne for the next Conference. The theme? **ATTITUDES TO CRIME — THE CHALLENGE OF THE EIGHTIES**. I trust Branches have already embarked on programmes and projects relevant to that theme. I look forward to hearing your Reports thereon at your 13th Biennial.

*ROY GRUBB*