

VIOLENCE PREVENTION INFORMATION EXCHANGE?

by Peter Prisgrove

A year or so ago at an Australian Institute of Criminology conference I volunteered to facilitate an information exchange for people involved in developing and delivering violence prevention programmes. Since then I have started to develop a practitioner mailing list and have sent out a couple of newsletters outlining some of the developments that people have written and phoned me about. In the process I have made contact with some helpful colleagues and found out about some interesting and useful work, but I have started to feel a bit like the proverbial "one hand clapping"!

I believe that a better way of facilitating this sort of practitioner level information exchange is to include it as a regular feature in an existing journal, and the Australian Crime Prevention Council Journal would be an obvious choice. The benefit practitioners is that membership of the ACPC (and hence receipt of the journal) is inexpensive, and with effective promotion such a feature would boost ACPC membership to a broad new group of practitioners.

I envisage that the feature would contain reasonably brief, succinct accounts of current events in the violence prevention area, such as current activities, programmes and research, reviews and evaluations of specific approaches, useful new (and old!) books, articles, programme materials, handy hints, who is doing what, where, and so on. The material should be written in a readable, easy to digest way and give contact addresses and phone/fax numbers to facilitate access to more detailed information. Maybe each state and territory could have a contact person to liaise with their ACPC committee to assemble wide-ranging material for inclusion in the feature. Perhaps each feature could focus on a particular area or areas, to give more coherence to the material. The AIC Violence Monitoring Unit may well be able to provide regular information on forthcoming conferences and other events of interest and

perhaps provide current and trend data on levels of violence, overseas developments, and so on.

I will look forward to your reaction and the reaction of ACPC state and territory committees and journal readers to this idea. Please be assured of my continuing interest and support.

BIOGRAPHY: Peter Prisgrove is a clinical psychologist, and is currently manager of the Alternatives to Violence Programme of the WA Department of Correction Services. He has worked as an administrator and clinician in both adult and juvenile corrections.

Peter would welcome comment. He can be contacted at the Department of Corrective Services, Western Australia, or phone him on (09) 263-7722.