Welcome to the first edition of the Victims of Crime Clearinghouse (VOCC) Newsletter. This newsletter aims to provide regular updated information on what is happening in relation to research in the victims of crime sector. Although there are a number of clearinghouses in Australia, such as the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse and the Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia, until now, an Australian clearinghouse specifically for all victims of crime has not been available. The VOCC was established to provide a valuable resource for service providers and researchers in the field and contains summaries of research articles and links to websites containing full texts. The VOCC will also publish reports and research articles from recipients of funding through the Victims of Crime Research Fund. As the VOCC is very new, we would appreciate any feedback you might have to improve the VOCC and any research articles of importance you think should be included on the site.

**Research**

**Uses and Abuses of Crime Statistics** aims to promote a better understanding of the uses and abuses of crime statistics amongst students, journalists and the interested public by describing of the main uses of crime statistics, coupled with analysis and examples of common abuses.


**Supporting women from CALD backgrounds who are victim/survivors of sexual violence: Challenges and opportunities for practitioners** aims to raise awareness of the circumstances of refugee and immigrant women who are survivors of sexual violence as they establish new lives in Australia.


**Canadians’ Awareness of Victim Issues: A Benchmarking Study** examines how much Canadians know about victims of crime. Are they aware that specific services exist in every jurisdiction to assist victims? Do levels of awareness differ among jurisdictions and age groups or between men and women?


**Publications**

**Apprehended Violence Orders - Information for applicants and persons in need of protection** provides information for persons in need of protection from domestic violence or personal violence, about how Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs) are made, and the consequences of an AVO.


**A Guide to the Media for Victims of Crime** has been developed by Victims Services in consultation with victims of crime, support groups, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and media representatives. It provides victims with practical information about the benefits and risks of publicly discussing their case so they can make informed decisions about how they interact with the media.

## Around the world

**United Kingdom (15 December 2011)**

Thirty-one charities and organisations have come together for the first time to launch the new Victims’ Services Alliance.


**Europe (19 December 2011)**

The Civil Liberties and Women’s Rights Committee of the European Parliament have endorsed a European Protection Order (EPO) under which crime victims who are granted protection in one member state will receive similar protection if they move to another EU country.


**France (13 December 2011)**

Victims of crime will soon be able to report crimes against property to the police online. The system has been trialled in the Yvelines, Charente-Maritime, Bas-Rhin and Haute-Garonne since 2008 and will be rolled out in 2012.


**North Carolina (30 November 2011)**

A North Carolina law came in force that creates separate crimes against mother and unborn child when a pregnant woman is physically attacked. In addition to crimes against the woman, prosecutors can now charge someone with murder or manslaughter for causing the death of an unborn child.


**Australia (22 December 2011)**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has announced the release dates for the 2011 Census, which was Australia’s sixteenth national Census.


## Submissions

The **Standing Committee on Social Issues** commenced an inquiry into domestic violence trends and issues in NSW on 25 July 2011. The closing date for submissions was 23 September 2011 and 71 submissions were received from a range of stakeholders, including Government and non-government organisations and individuals. The Committee has held two public hearings and an extensive public consultation schedule is planned for 2012. The Committee expects to table its report around August 2012.

**Further details:**


## Grants

The **Law and Justice Foundation of NSW Grants Program** supports community projects that aim to improve access to justice, particularly for disadvantaged people. The Foundation accepts small grant applications of up to $5000 at any time. Applications for general grants of up to $50,000 close on 31 March and 31 August annually. The next general grant round closing date will be 31 March 2012.

**Further details:**

http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/grants
### Conferences

**What Price Prosecution? Developments & Challenges in Determining Appropriate Forensic Tools in the Prosecution of Adult Sexual Assault.**  
Museum of Sydney, NSW, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Wednesday 7 March, 2012.  
The Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault is convening a one-day forum to explore and debate current issues and practice in forensic and medical care for victims of sexual assault.  

**Identifying the Hidden Disaster: The First Australian Conference on Natural Disasters and Family Violence.**  
Melbourne, Australia, 9 March 2012.  
Presented in partnership by Women’s Health In the North, Women’s Health Goulburn North East and the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse.  

**New Zealand National Domestic Violence Conference.**  
Auckland, New Zealand, 2-4 May 2012.  
Presented by the Global Coalition Against Domestic Violence in New Zealand.  
http://www.domesticviolenceconference.net/newzealanddvconference.htm

**Justice for Victims: Cross-cultural Perspectives on Conflict, Trauma and Reconciliation 14th International Symposium World Society of Victimology.**  
Presented by the World Society of Victimology, together with the International Victimology Institute (INTERVICT) Tilburg, Victim Support Europe and the Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC).  
http://www.14thsymposiumwsv.nl

**Enhancing Justice: Empowerment Through Victims’ Rights 11th Annual Crime Victim Law Conference.**  
Portland, Oregon, USA, 8-9 June 2012.  
Presented by the National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI).  
https://law.lclark.edu/centers/national_crime_victim_law_institute/projects/education_and_training/annual_conference/

**Age of Rage – Positive Solutions Conference 2012.**  
SMC Conference & Function Centre, Sydney, 19-20 June 2012.  
Presented by Enough is Enough Anti Violence Movement.  

**Connected by Trauma: Research, Response, Recovery. Australasian Conference of Child Trauma.**  
RACV Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, Queensland, 4-6 July 2012.  
Presented by the Australian Centre for Postraumatic Mental Health and the Australian Child & Adolescent Trauma, Loss and Grief Network.  
http://www.cvent.com/events/australasian-conference-of-child-trauma/event-summary-75797459ca3943c3a896a7870ec92cc1.aspx

**Violence Studies Conference.**  
The Crowne Plaza, Newcastle, Australia, 21-23 August 2012.  
Presented by The Humanities Research Institute and the Centre for the History of Violence at the University of Newcastle, Australia.  

**Participatory Justice and Victims: Achieving justice for victims in local, domestic and international settings.**  
The Australian National University Canberra, Australia, 17-18 September 2012.  
Presented by Victim Support Australia Inc., Victim Support ACT and the Australian National University.  
http://law.anu.edu.au/coast/events/victims/more.html
Featured websites

Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse researchers database

The researchers database presents information and contact details about researchers working on domestic violence related topics across Australia and internationally.

http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/Researchers.htm

The Deaf Society of NSW, Family Safety in Auslan: Domestic Violence

This series of nine videos provides information on domestic violence including warning signs, effects on children, apprehended violence orders and where to get support. The videos are acted out and presented in Auslan accompanied by written script.


LawAssist, LawAccess, Department of Attorney General and Justice, New South Wales, Australia: Apprehended Violence Orders

LawAssist can help you if you have a legal problem in NSW and are representing yourself. Legal procedures and forms for court and tribunal cases are explained. The AVO section is quite comprehensive with information and guides for getting and defending AVOs.


Victims of Crime, Department of Justice, Victoria, Australia: Surveys and Research

To improve services and responses to victims of crime, this site features surveys, seeking input from various groups. No identification or personal details are required to participate in these surveys. “It’s important to hear your views and experiences. Learning from those whose lives have been affected by crime makes this work possible.”