Welcome to the third edition of the Victims of Crime Clearinghouse (VOCC) newsletter.

Providing the best possible support to victims of crime comes from understanding what it is that victims of crime really need.

The Victims of Crime Research Fund

The Victims of Crime Research Fund provides up to $200,000 a year to support further research into the most effective methods of assisting victims in their recovery. The new funding program focuses on victims’ issues where there is little or no local research available. In its inaugural year, the Research Fund focused on funding research into areas of ‘support for victims of crime and their participation in court processes’ and ‘the impact of media reporting on victims of crime’.

The first round of funding has been completed. Details of the successful tenderers are available on the website. The second round of research funding is now open. The priority areas that have been identified for 2013 are:

- Victims of non-violent crimes; and
- Victims with multiple/complex needs.

You can find more information about each of these topics and a link to the relevant tender information at: http://www.victimsclearinghouse.nsw.gov.au/vocrc/research_fund.html,c=y

Information about the NSW Government tendering process can be found on the NSW E-tendering website at: www.tenders.nsw.gov.au

We would appreciate any feedback you might have to improve the VOCC and any research articles of importance that you think should be included on the site.

Conferences

**Applied Research in Crime and Justice Conference 2013**

**Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sydney, 27-28 February 2013**

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research are convening a conference on applied research in crime and criminal justice. The conference will showcase high quality Australian and international research in the areas of policing, offender rehabilitation, situational crime prevention, corrections, early-interventions and criminal justice administration.

http://www.cvent.com/events/the-applied-research-in-crime-and-justice-conference-2013/event-summary-05c4107d0b8f47718d0ff7aa6b55f90d.aspx

**Crime, Justice and Social Democracy International Conference**

**Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, 8-11 July 2013**

The aim of this conference is to reinvigorate the intellectual and policy debates about the link between social justice, social democracy and the reduction of harm, crime and victimisation through the alleviation of inequalities and building of more socially just and inclusive societies.

http://crimejusticeconference.com
A number of new research papers and reports have been added to the VOCC website. These include:

**A victim-centred approach to justice? Victim satisfaction effects on third-party punishments.**

In this research the authors examine the relationship between victims’ satisfaction with participation in restorative justice programs and the broader community’s view of the criminal justice system. The findings showed that when victims show their satisfaction with a restorative justice process, third-party observers assign less harsh punishment for offenders. The report discusses the reasons for this and suggests that when victims are satisfied then other people’s own feelings of satisfaction with the restorative justice system are raised because of an belief that victims have reached closure and offenders are now being reformed.


**Victims’ needs as basic human needs.**

The authors reviewed the needs of particular victims of crime. It included such needs as emotional and moral support, security and protection, legal and financial assistance, and crime prevention. As a basis for this article the authors reviewed 33 research studies into the self-expressed needs of victims of crime. The researchers also considered the needs of victims of violent crimes and victims of property crimes, and the differences between groups of victims and gender, groups of ethnic origin.


**Polyvictimisation in a child welfare sample of children and youths**

In this study the authors examined polyvictimisation in a child welfare sample of 220 children and youth in Montreal. The authors discuss the need to develop more integrated services and for support agencies to develop strategies and interventions to prevent subsequent victimisations.


**Meeting the training needs of those who meet the needs of victims: assessing service providers.**

In this study the authors present the results of a training needs assessment of 243 victim service providers in Virginia, USA. The goal of the study was to plan foundational training for victim service providers with three years or less experience. The results suggested that service providers with less experience and less formal education may have more significant training needs than their more educated and experienced colleagues.


**Sexual revictimisation in adult women: examining factors associated with their childhood and adulthood experiences.**

This study explores the association between disclosure of early childhood abuse and later revictimisation in adulthood, including disclosure of the adult revictimisation. The authors suggest that further research in this area is important to develop prevention and intervention strategies that can prevent revictimisation in adulthood.

Justice Journey – Information for victims of crime about going to court in NSW.

Victims Services has produced a DVD resource and accompanying fact sheets for victims of crime facing the court process. The content aims to demystify the court process and better equip witnesses for the court experience. The purpose of the video is to provide young people and adults who are victims of crime, along with their families and supporters, with information about court processes and their role as witnesses, in a non-threatening, informative way. It includes sections on courtroom processes and protocols, the roles of key court personnel, the role and rights of witnesses and the various support services available. It depicts modern courtrooms, including the latest court technologies. It is divided into sections so that it can be stopped and discussed in counselling and court preparation sessions. The DVD is supported by a guide and fact sheets, which are available to anyone providing support to victims of crime. The DVD can be seen on the Victims Services website. Copies of the DVD and accompanying print resources can also be obtained via the website publications page.


Chairperson’s Report 2011/2012 – Victims Compensation Tribunal New South Wales

The Victims Compensation Tribunal New South Wales Chairperson’s Report 2011-12 was released on 23 November 2012. You can obtain a copy of the Chairperson’s report on the Victims Services website.


Advice about your visa if you’ve been hurt or harmed by your partner.

These Legal Aid NSW multilingual brochures provide information on spouse visas and family violence. They provide information on where to get advice about spouse visas if you’ve been hurt or harmed by your partner.


Europe (14 November 2012)

A new European law to improve rights for an estimated 75 million crime victims across the European Union each year was published in the Official Journal – the EU’s statute book, on 14 November 2012.

**Featured websites**

**Intervict**
The International Victimology Institute Tilburg promotes and executes interdisciplinary research that can contribute to a comprehensive, evidence-based body of knowledge on the empowerment and support of victims of crime and abuse of power.

http://www.tilburguniversity.edu/research/institutes-and-research-groups/intervict

**The Australian Institute of Criminology**
The Australian Institute of Criminology is Australia’s national research and knowledge centre on crime and justice. They seek to promote justice and reduce crime by undertaking and communicating evidence-based research to inform policy and practice. This website includes information on the Australian component of the International Crime Victims Survey 2004 (ICVS).

http://www.aic.gov.au

**The Hague Domestic Violence Project**
A team of individuals from various professional backgrounds who are dedicated to creating a comprehensive resource that will enable mothers, domestic violence advocates, attorneys and judges to better prepare themselves for Hague Convention cases in the United States legal system.

http://www.haguedv.org