

Crime Victim e-news

Information, events, research & practices for those with an interest in victims of crime.



March 2010

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Victim Support Service Update

▪ Upcoming Seminar – Limited Places Available!

31 March (8:30am-4:30pm), Unley

Victim Support Service is hosting a one-day seminar by the internationally acclaimed clinician, researcher and teacher - Dr Bessel van der Kolk.

Bessel van der Kolk is the (founding) Medical Director of the Trauma Centre at HRI Hospital in Brookline, Massachusetts. Further details about Dr van der Kolk can be found [here](#).

Dr van der Kolk will be presenting on recent developments in treating trauma especially when working with people who have complex trauma presentations. His focus will be to explore the impact of trauma over the life span.

He will also be providing an overview of the relative treatment efficacy of several prevailing interventions.

Dr van der Kolk has been asked to explore the challenges ahead for working with traumatised people and to discourse on the issue of Vicarious Traumatization and self care for workers.

Further details and a registration form can be found on the home page of our website at www.victimsa.org

Subscription

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Courts

▪ [Australia's Judicial System and the Role of Judges](#)

Guy Barnett & others, Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, 2009

A report into the employment of judges: their appointment, retirement and protocols of complaint-handling. A new judicial commission will consider the latter, along with consistency in sentencing and judicial education.

▪ [Family Courts Violence Review: a report by Professor Richard Chisholm](#)

Attorney-General's Department

A report on the support given to families appearing at the federal law courts, and who have experienced violence at home. Suggestions are made for improved services.

▪ [Judge Peggy Fulton Hora Returns in March for a Month](#)

Our thinker-in-residence will be back soon.

▪ [Sentence Indication: A Report on the Pilot Scheme \(for Early Resolution\)](#)

Sentencing Advisory Council (Vic.) 2010

Sentence indication is used in Victorian courts to expedite proceedings: this report gives an account of its success in that state from July 2008 to June 2009.

Contributions

Do you have something to contribute to our next issue of e-news?

To suggest upcoming content, please [click here](#).

Indigenous Crime & Justice

▪ [Family Violence, Help-Seeking and the Close-Knit Aboriginal Community: Lessons for Mainstream Service Provision](#)

Bronwyn Lumby & Terri Farrelly, Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, 2010

Indigenous communities are close-knit by nature and this can impede help-seeking behaviour amongst crime victims. A lack of assistance can cause isolation which can lead to suicide, depression or self-harm. Western services are not suitable for helping in these circumstances.

- [Identifying the Risks for Indigenous Violent Victimization](#)
Colleen Bryant, Australian Institute of Criminology, for the Indigenous Justice Clearinghouse, 2009
A summary of social factors and demographics related to being a victim of violence in an Indigenous setting. This information may be used to create preventative strategies such as family counselling, night patrols and child protection.
- [Indigenous Sentencing Courts](#)
Elena Marchetti, Indigenous Justice Clearinghouse, 2009
There are indigenous courts in each Australian territory and every state (except Tasmania). This report describes the protocols and practices involved, and the role of these courts.
- [Social Justice Report 2009](#)
Tom Calma, Australian Human Rights Commission
A report on the over-representation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system, and the steps being taken to improve this situation. Indigenous culture, such as language, and community life should be enshrined for the future.

Suggest a Friend

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In the Media

- [Abuse payout offer 'insult'](#)
AdelaideNow report
- [The demands of fighting crime](#)
AdelaideNow report

Archives

Previous issues of e-news can be found [here](#).

Measuring Crime

- [Covert and Cyber Bullying](#)
Australian Institute of Criminology, February 2010
A report on the problems in Australian schools faced by victims of covert bullying and cyber bullying.
- [Crime Risks of Three-Dimensional Virtual Environments](#)
Ian Warren & Darren Palmer, Australian Institute of Criminology, 2010
A paper describing a new kind of harm, caused to victims online three-dimensional virtual environments (3dves). It suggests how this crime could be suppressed, and makes suggestions about legislation and regulation by user-groups or licence-agreements.
- [Crime Victimization, Australia, 2008-09](#)
Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2010
Statistics of crime victimisation in Australia from July 2008 to June 2009, presented by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, using a new survey, the ABS Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS).
- [Drug Use Monitoring in Australia: 2008 Annual Report on Drug Use Among Police Detainees](#)
Antonette Gaffney, Warwick Jones, Josh Sweeney & Jason Payne
Australian Institute of Criminology, 2010
Statistics outlining the trends in drug use by detainees in Australia in 2007-08. This report describes the links between illicit drugs and crime in nine states.

Editor

Please [click here](#) to contact the Editor.

The Editor reserves the right to make the final decision on the content of e-news.

New Findings: Crime Victims

- [Suicide and Fatal Drug Overdose in Child Sexual Abuse Victims: A Historic Cohort Study](#)
Margaret C Cutajar, Paul E Mullen & others, Medical Journal of Australia, 2010
New information on the long-term consequences of childhood sexual abuse, which may result in suicide or accidental fatal drug overdose.

- [The Community Safety of International Students in Melbourne](#)
Prof Hurriyet Babacan & others, Institute for Community, Ethnicity and Policy Alternatives, 2010
There has been increasing concern about the personal safety of Indian students in Australia. This report delves into the motives for the violent attacks which occurred in 2009.
- [Quality Victim Advocacy: A Field Guide](#)
Workplay Publishing, 2010, USA. ISBN-13: 978-0984212217
'The definitive manual for measuring and improving quality and outcomes in crime victim service programs. Written to help providers and administrators design and implement services that are victim-centered and victim-driven'. (- Publisher)
- [Victim Compensation and Domestic Violence: A National Overview](#)
Isobelle Barrett Meyering, Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, 2010
Victims seeking compensation have in the past often been hampered by legislation, rather than helped. New legislation in most states has improved access to compensation for women – but new measures to cause offenders to pay debts may have put those improvements into reverse.

Contacts

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Websites

- [Community Legal Centres](#)
South Australia Council of Community Legal Services
Community legal centres, situated in urban and rural areas, provide legal advice, assistance and referrals. In these centres, solicitors, legal advisors and support staff explain legal obligations, rights and options.
- [Foolkit - A Lawyer's Toolkit](#)
A one-stop-shop for information about the criminal justice system - with a section for lawyers and one for the general public. Everything you need to know about lawyers, appearing in court, legislation, sentencing, fines, compensation, etc.

Conferences

- [First International Online Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Conference](#)
11 March, Online
Deakin University's School of Health and Social Development (Melbourne, Australia) and Phoenix House (Bundaberg, Australia)
"You are invited to present at this online conference focusing on the prevention of child sexual abuse. The subtheme of this conference is the 'spectrum of prevention'."
- [Australian Conference On Children & The Media](#)
[Growing Up Fast & Furious: Reviewing the Impacts of Violent & Sexualised Media on Children](#)
19 March, Surrey Hills
Australian Council on Children & the Media
- [Challenging Silence - A Child Protection & Domestic Violence Advanced Training Conference](#)
24-26 March, Brisbane
Peak Care, Queensland Inc
- [ACOSS National Conference 2010: A Vote for Equity](#)
25-26 March, Canberra
Australian Council of Social Service
- Please [click here](#) to view more upcoming conferences.

Events

- **Worker Well-Being: Expanding Personal and Professional Self-care Practices**
9 March (9:30am - 1pm)
Women's Health Statewide, 64 Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide
Hosts: Toni Holden and Kristina Birchmore from Women's Health Statewide
Topics include: vicarious traumatisation (contributions and protective measures), and building resilience. There will also be a practical exploration of mindfulness. Useful for health care workers, allied health professionals and managers.
Bookings essential. RSVP to 08 8239 9600. Free!
- [International Women's Day](#)
10 March (Luncheon)
Adelaide Convention Centre
Hosts: International Women's Day Committee of SA Inc
Tickets \$50
Bookings: (08) 8241 9900 or iwdcommitteesa@bigpond.com or paige@mac.org.au
- [Recovery from Trauma: What Works](#)
16 March (7:30pm), Satellite Television Broadcast.
Hosts: Rural Health Education Foundation
A self help program for people who have experienced a traumatic event, or are close to someone who has, and need help to cope with the experience. The program has been produced to assist them to understand the signs and symptoms they experience and help them and their family to make informed decisions about the most appropriate treatment and care.' (- Publisher)

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