

Submission  
No 9

## INQUIRY INTO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRENDS AND ISSUES IN NSW

**Organisation:** Australian Institute of Criminology

**Date received:** 14/09/2011

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14 September 2011

Hon Niall Blair MLC  
Chair, Standing Committee on Social Issues  
NSW Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Blair,

**Re: Inquiry into domestic violence trends and issues in NSW**

Thank you for your letter on 1 August 2011 inviting submissions to the NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Social Issues' inquiry into domestic violence trends and issues in NSW.

This is an important Inquiry, however the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) is not currently undertaking research on domestic violence in NSW and is, therefore, unable to make a detailed response on this occasion. The Committee may find the following AIC publications of interest:

- Bartels L 2010. **Emerging issues in domestic/family violence**. *Research in Practice* no. 10. Canberra: AIC

*Abstract:* This paper presents an overview of some of the key emerging issues in Australian domestic and family violence (D/FV) research. In particular, the paper considers research in the context of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (GLBTI) communities; among the elderly; those with disabilities and people from cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds; family violence and Indigenous communities; the relevance of homelessness; the impact of D/FV on children; and issues around perpetrator programs.

[http://www.aic.gov.au/documents/B/7/2/%7BB720C47B-56F2-4C4D-AA2C-57A2278FD87E%7Drip10\\_001.pdf](http://www.aic.gov.au/documents/B/7/2/%7BB720C47B-56F2-4C4D-AA2C-57A2278FD87E%7Drip10_001.pdf)

- Bryant C & Willis M 2008. **Risk factors in Indigenous violent victimisation**. *Technical and Background Paper* no. 30. Canberra: AIC

*Abstract:* Indigenous Australians are subject to higher rates of violent victimisation than other Australians. Based on data from surveys, service providers and the criminal justice system, this report examines how Indigenous violent victimisation rates vary with demographic, psychological and cultural factors. Determining victimisation risk, while constrained by data and survey information, enables identification of how risk is affected at community, local and regional levels to allow for implementation of localised prevention strategies. Reduction of victimisation risks through addressing external environmental influences requires a multifaceted and holistic approach.

<http://www.aic.gov.au/documents/B/3/D/%7BB3DA1CED-B75E-41BE-B7DB-738D9618E007%7Dtbp030.pdf>

- Morgan A & Chadwick H 2009. **Key issues in domestic violence**. *Research in Practice* no. 7. Canberra: AIC

*Abstract:* This summary paper provides a brief overview of domestic violence. Key research findings on the nature, prevalence and impact of domestic violence are presented, along with an overview of risk factors associated with an increased likelihood of offending or victimisation. The implications of these research findings for policy and practice are also briefly outlined.

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/rip/1-10/07.aspx>
- Richards K 2011. **Children's exposure to domestic violence in Australia**. *Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice* no. 419. Canberra: AIC

*Abstract:* In this paper, current knowledge about the extent of children's exposure to domestic violence in Australia is described, along with the documented impacts that this exposure can have on children. This includes psychological and behavioural impacts, health and socioeconomic impacts, and its link to the intergenerational transmission of violence and re-victimisation. The paper concludes that initiatives focused on early intervention and holistic approaches to preventing and responding to children's exposure to domestic violence should be considered as part of strategies developed to address this problem.

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/tandi/401-420/tandi419.aspx>
- Willis M 2011. **Non-disclosure of violence in Indigenous Australian communities**. *Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice* no. 405. Canberra: AIC.

*Abstract:* This paper explores factors that contribute to the high rates of non-disclosure of violence in Indigenous communities. It begins by examining reasons for non-disclosure in the broader Australian community before discussing how factors specific to Indigenous Australians influence individual decisions to disclose violence. The paper concludes by considering ways of encouraging disclosure through services, training and education and community responses. It emphasises the need to locate these within broader efforts to address the cycles of intergenerational violence that can so heavily impact the lives of Indigenous Australians.

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/tandi/401-420/tandi405.aspx>

In addition to these published reports, the AIC is currently engaged in a number of research consultancies examining issues relevant to this Inquiry:

- Intimate partner homicide** – The AIC is currently preparing a *Research and Public Policy* paper regarding trends in intimate partner homicides in Australia. The research is divided into three key components: a review of intimate homicides recorded in the AIC's National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP); an analysis of risk factors for intimate partner homicide using domestic violence and intimate partner homicide data in Queensland; and a review of Indigenous intimate partner homicides in the Northern Territory. This project is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.
- Domestic violence perpetrator profiling** – The Criminology Research Advisory Council (CRAC) has provided funds to the AIC to examine domestic violence perpetrator profiles using criminal history and other data from Tasmania's Safe at Home program. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in mid-2012, contributing to the evidence-base on a number of important questions, including:

- What characterises the longitudinal nature of domestic violence and to what extent are there typologies of domestic violence perpetration?
  - To what extent can a typology of domestic violence be used to inform early intervention policies and offender programs?
  - What types of abuse (emotional, social, psychological, financial, physical, etc.) are evident in the longitudinal course of domestic violence perpetration? Are these alternative forms of abuse specific or general to different typologies of domestic violence perpetration and are they potential risk markers for early intervention and prevention programs?
- **Family violence intervention evaluation** – In 2009/2010, the AIC conducted a review of the ACT Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP). The FVIP is an interagency coordinated response to family violence incidents that come to the attention of the police and proceed to prosecution. The review describes victims reporting incidents of family violence to police and defendants charged before the court for family violence offences in the ACT over the 2007/08 financial year. The review findings (as yet unpublished) identify recommendations for improved governance and future directions of the FVIP. These findings do not cover the range of areas identified in the terms of reference for the inquiry into domestic violence trends and issues in NSW.

These projects are at different stages of progress. If the Committee wishes to be briefed on the current status and/or outcomes (if available) of these projects I am sure something could be arranged.

Thank you for inviting the AIC to make a submission to the Inquiry. Should you require any further information about the projects and reports listed above, please contact Jason Payne, Manager of the AIC's Violent and Serious Crime Monitoring program (Tel) (email)

Yours sincerely,

(Dr) Adam Tomison  
Director (Chief Executive)