



Welcome to the TILES Newsletter No. 2

As the incoming Chair of the Board of Directors, I've been very impressed with the progress that TILES is making in its development into a first-class law enforcement research facility.

Perhaps the most significant recent achievement has been the partnership between the Institute and the University Department of Rural Health on the Social Norms approach to substance abuse prevention. There's more on this project elsewhere in this newsletter.

TILES takes particular pride in this project because of the strong way in which it reflects our preferred way of working – in partnership with other players and in projects which support our key theme areas: in this case, drug law enforcement and youth crime prevention. These areas themselves reflect both the Australian Government's National Research Priorities and the

Tasmanian Government's Tasmania *Together* goals.

Another significant development detailed elsewhere in this newsletter is the Review of TILES, which was conducted in August 2005 by a panel of very highly regarded experts. The review endorsed the strategic direction of the Institute and has provided a number of helpful recommendations to guide us into the future.

May I conclude by acknowledging some personal milestones – first, the contribution made by two Board members who have had to relinquish their positions in recent months. Sir Max Bingham QC was the inaugural chair of the Board and was instrumental in setting the Institute's strategic direction and Mr. Rudie Sypkes, as a Community/Business representative, who has also made a valuable contribution to the



strong position in which the Institute now finds itself.

Second, I'd like to congratulate our Director, Associate Professor Roberta Julian, on assuming the presidency of the Australian Sociological Association (TASA) for 2005-07. It is a measure of the regard in which she, and increasingly the Institute, is held by their peers.

Richard Bingham
*Chair
Board of Directors*

Director's Report



I would also like to extend my thanks and that of the Management Committee to the inaugural Chair, Sir Max Bingham QC and Mr Rudie Sypkes for the contribution they have made to TILES. I also extend a very warm welcome to Mr Richard Bingham who has taken the position of Chair of the Board of Directors. Mr Bingham has previously held the position of Secretary of the Department of Justice and is currently fulfilling the role of Ombudsman for the State of Tasmania.

I would now like to turn to the Review that was conducted in August, 2005 in relation to the Institute. The review was carried out in line with requirements of the Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Department of Police and Emergency Management.

The review panel consisted of Professor Colin Buxton (Chair), Director of Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute at the University of Tasmania, Dr Jim Hahn, Executive Director of the Australian Institute of Police Management and Assoc Prof Colleen Lewis, Research Coordinator, Political and Social Inquiry, and Co-director Parliamentary Studies Unit, Faculty of Arts at Monash University, Caulfield Campus.

The Review was established to make comment and recommendations on the:

- Strategic objectives, goals and targets in the context of the Memorandum of Understanding;
- Structure, resources and staff profile in the context of its strategic objectives and goals; and
- Activities in the context of strategic objectives, goals and targets.

The Review also focused on the success of TILES in:

- Identifying potential sources of research funding, attracting research funding and achieving research targets, especially for collaborative and inter-disciplinary research in areas relevant for contemporary and future policing practice;

- Collaborating with the DPEM and responding to the needs of law enforcement agencies;
- Establishing research contacts with community groups;
- Collaborating with the host School of Government, the Dean of Faculty, and the PVC (Research) in further enhancing the research profile of the University;
- Engaging in research expertise and research excellence available at the University;
- Establishing collaborative links with other universities and research institutes with similar research focus nationally and internationally;
- Managing the activities of the Institute, including the budget; and
- Publicizing the activities of the Institute, and maintaining a high profile within the University, in the Tasmanian community and nationally.

The report prepared by the Review Panel has made recommendations that will have a significant impact on the future consolidation of TILES and its research activities. Sixteen recommendations were made including the following:

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ISSN: 1832-7001

- That the TILES Board hosts a Strategic Planning Workshop with all major stakeholders, including UTAS, DPEM and other relevant state departments, community representatives and TILES staff to clarify the strategic focus and themed areas of TILES.
- That the partners increase the level of funding and extend the initial investment in TILES beyond the first term, for a further period of three years.
- That TILES develops strategies to broaden its funding base, particularly opportunities to partner with other state departments, statutory authorities and the private sector.
- That an additional administrative position be created to support the Director as a component of the strategic investment of the partners.
- That the Faculty considers mechanisms to underwrite the activities of TILES such that the unique talents of its fixed term research staff are not lost to the Institute during the initial investment period.
- That TILES engages with Schools within the University to identify the advantages of partnership with the Institute.
- That the DPEM considers establishing protocols whereby access to its data by University researchers is provided only under the auspices of TILES.
- That TILES gives increased priority to raising awareness of its role and the benefits that it is providing to the community.

The recommendations are to be referred to the Board of Directors for consideration.

The remainder of this newsletter addresses key reports, staff appointments and provides an overview of the projects that are currently being completed within TILES. Whilst the newsletter is later than envisaged, we have been working assiduously none the less. We anticipate returning to publication in January, May/June and September.

Roberta Julian

Associate Professor and Director

Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies

TILES Achievements

Since June 2005, TILES has:

- won a significant funding grant from the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation Ltd (AERF) to undertake a collaborative, multi-community trial of an innovative alcohol misuse prevention approach known as 'Social Norms';
- completed and released a report to the National Institute of Forensic Science providing an overview of the partnership projects on forensic science and policing in Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria;
- released the Final Report on the local evaluation of the U-Turn pilot in Tasmania;
- submitted a report to the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund on 'Enhancing the Implementation and Management of Drug Diversion Strategies in Australian Law Enforcement Agencies';
- submitted a report to NRMA Insurance through its Community Grants Program evaluating two programs aimed at improving community safety. The report's title is 'A Comparative Analysis of Streetsafe in Hobart and Launceston';
- increased its RHD candidature to eight under the direct supervision of the Director.

TILES awarded an AERF Grant for 'Social Norms' Research

A submission by Associate Professor Roberta Julian, (Director of TILES), Dr Clarissa Hughes, (Research Fellow, Department of Rural Health, University of Tasmania) and Inspector Matthew Richman (Research Fellow, TILES), to the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation Ltd (AERF) for \$490 000 was successful.

AERF allocated \$5 million for projects up to \$500 000 which focused on Prevention and Public Education and which embraced the core funding objectives of the Foundation.

AERF Funding was made available, for up to three years, for the implementation of innovative prevention partnerships that seek to divert population groups at high risk of experiencing alcohol related harm.

Background to the Social Norms project was the subject of the first TILES Briefing Paper No 1 released in June 2005.



*AERF 'Social Norms' project Chief Investigators L-R
Inspector Matthew Richman, Dr Clarissa Hughes, Associate Professor Roberta Julian*

The Chief Investigators on the project are Dr Clarissa Hughes from the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH), Associate Professor Roberta Julian from the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies (TILES), and Inspector Matthew Richman from Tasmania Police. They will be working with personnel from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education and local and international experts.

The project will be run at four regional high schools; Huonville High School and Geeveston District High School in the Huon, and Rosebery District High School and Mountain Heights School on the West Coast. Local government, youth/health service providers, police and other individuals will also be involved 'on the ground'.

Dr Clarissa Hughes said the project is the first major Australian trial of the 'Social Norms' approach.

"Research suggests that teenage perceptions of how much 'everyone else' drinks 'normally' are much more extreme than the reality - but they still influence drinking behaviour. What your peers think is powerful - even what you think your peers think is powerful.

There's a substantial body of evidence that suggests that overestimation of binge-drinking is rife, and that simply correcting the misperceptions can actually bring about positive change."

Associate Professor Roberta Julian, the Director of TILES, said community engagement and capacity building lie at the heart of the project.

"It will utilise the strengths of the communities to access the target group and facilitate change – focussing on seeking local solutions to local issues.

The study will help to foster a culture that is much less supportive of high-risk drinking."

Inspector Richman said even modest reductions to binge-drinking can deliver significant benefits to the community in terms of increased safety and security.

"We're also optimistic about the potential of the Social Norms approach to prompt a reconsideration of ways to address many social issues in this country."

Outcomes

The main outcomes of the AERF 'Social Norms' project are to:

- collect 'baseline' measures and contextual data concerning the use of alcohol and local patterns of alcohol-related harm among the target group in the two sites and to compare these with post-intervention data;
- establish whether or not students, parents and/or teachers at the intervention sites misperceive (ie overestimate) the extent of student binge-drinking;

- determine whether the reduction of any misperception among any or all of the three groups results in an actual reduction in risky alcohol use and/or alcohol-related harm among students;
- identify technical procedures and practices, and community characteristics and conditions which facilitate or impede the successful implementation of 'Social Norms' interventions;
- develop a resource kit on 'How to conduct Social Norms Interventions' to enable replication of the alcohol-focused preventive intervention elsewhere in Australia;
- develop recommendations concerning the implementation (or otherwise) of 'Social Norms' interventions to reduce alcohol-related harm in communities throughout Tasmania; and
- provide an evidence base for decision-making concerning the utilisation (or otherwise) of 'Social Norms' strategies for minimising harm from licit and illicit drugs in other Australian states and territories.

The project commenced in January 2006 and has a completion date of December 2007.

The TILES website has dedicated a web page to the project with updates and regular progress reports highlighted.

Evaluation Report for the Tasmanian U-Turn Pilot Project

This report presents the findings of the Tasmanian local evaluation conducted by the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies (TILES) that began in May 2003.

U-Turn is a diversionary program (motor vehicle project) for young people aged 15-20 years with a history of motor vehicle theft, or who are at risk of becoming involved in motor vehicle theft. The core component of the program is a structured ten-week automotive training course in car maintenance and body work, delivered in a workshop environment. Other components of the program include: case management and personal development; links to employment and further education; recreational activities; literacy and numeracy education; road safety education and post-course support.

U-Turn is based on the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council's (NMVTRC) Best Practice Model and Business Plan for a Young Recidivist Car Theft Offender Program which is available at www.carsafe.com.au.

The aims of the program are to:

- reduce the rate of motor vehicle theft by young people;
- prevent recidivism and chronic career offending by young people;
- address anti-social behaviour;
- address life issues relevant to participants and link participants to a comprehensive network of support; and
- assist young people to maximise their potential so that they can offer a positive contribution to society.

The U-Turn program was piloted in Tasmania over a two-year period with funding provided by the NMVTRC and the Australian Government's National Crime Prevention program (NCP). The program was delivered by Mission Australia under contract to Tasmania Police.

A key emphasis of the Tasmanian pilot project was restorative justice, with participants undertaking projects such as repairing damaged vehicles for presentation to victims of motor vehicle theft. The general practice was for each course of participants to work on a vehicle with a view to presenting it to a victim of crime at the conclusion of the ten-week course.

The U-Turn program has also been piloted in New South Wales, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. A local evaluation of each pilot site is being conducted, and the Australian Government's Attorney-General's Department is funding a meta-evaluation across all four pilot sites. TILES was contracted by Tasmania Police to conduct the local evaluation of the U-Turn pilot project.

Key Findings

The evaluation suggests that in the majority of cases mixing young people with a history of motor vehicle theft offences with young people 'at risk' of becoming involved in motor vehicle theft is not problematic.

The evaluation provides extensive evidence from interviews with participants, significant others and program staff that demonstrates the profound impact of the program in bringing about a shift in the lives of the majority of the program participants.

This has included positive changes in: anti-social behaviour; life and personal skills; practical vocational training and experience in the automotive industry; workplace skills; self-esteem and confidence; social skills and self-awareness; interview and job skills; and awareness of others and the broader community.

The data analysis demonstrates a positive outcome for the majority of U-Turn participants who completed the course. The majority of the U-Turn graduates (92%) did not commit any offences while they were participating in the program and 52% have not recorded any offences since completing the program. Only eight graduates (15%) have recorded a motor vehicle theft since completing the program.

In May 2004 the Tasmanian Premier, the Hon Paul Lennon, announced that his Government had allocated nearly \$1.5m to extend the successful U-Turn program into 2007. The announcement is an indication of confidence in the NMVTRC model and a measure of how well U-Turn has been accepted by local stakeholders and the Tasmanian community. A copy of the report is available on the TILES website.

From April 2006, TILES will be continuing its association with the U-Turn program by providing a monitoring and oversight role in relation to U-Turn's self-evaluation processes.

Forensic Science Report

This report provided an overview of the NIFS partnership projects on forensic science and policing in Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria.

A key element of intelligence-led policing is 'the application of preventative measures, including working with local partnerships' (NCIS, 2000 cited in Ratcliffe, 2003:2).

The NIFS Partnership Project addresses an important gap in knowledge relating to the application of forensic science to contemporary policing practice. While much is known about the science itself and thus the need for scientific training among police officers in forensic science branches, little is known about how differing groups of police understand forensic science. Given the pressure to incorporate forensic techniques into operational policing, it is important that information on levels of awareness and understanding of forensic science among police officers be acquired, and that the ways in which forensic science techniques are being implemented in policing are examined.

This research addressed this gap in knowledge by exploring these issues in Tasmania (2002), South Australia (2003) and Victoria (2004).

Aims of the Research

The primary aim of this research was:

- to determine the current level of awareness of forensic science and what it offers to the different groups in police.

A secondary aim was:

- to determine where these different groups saw forensic science adding value to their role/functions.

The results of the research will be used:

- to determine if there are 'gaps' in the awareness of forensic science and what it offers, and if so where they are and what they are; and
- to identify 'gaps' in terms of forensic science adding value where it has the capacity to do so.

Key Findings

A number of common themes emerged from the analysis of the data in all three Partnership Projects. The recommendations developed in each project clustered around the following themes:

- Training
 - What kind of training?
 - What level of training?
 - Who should be trained?
- Communication/Information Flow
 - Communication between police and forensic scientists (and vice versa)
 - Police access to information on:
 - (a) forensic capabilities, and
 - (b) procedures for the submission of items.
 - Feedback about forensic evidence to the officer who collected it (and not just the investigating officer).
- Managing stakeholders' expectation.
- Timeliness of service.
- Potential evidence storage.
- Intelligence-led policing.
- Clarity
 - roles and responsibilities, and
 - procedures.
- The value of forensic evidence.
- The need for further research.

In May 2006, TILES submitted an application for an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant on 'The Effectiveness of Forensic Evidence in the Criminal Justice System'. The collaborating partners in this application and: Victoria Police, Australian Federal Police, National Institute of Forensic Science, University of Melbourne, University of Technology Sydney and the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. If successful, this research will add even further to the knowledge of the interface between forensic science and policing.

TILES Staff – Welcome

Claire Haberle
TILES Executive Officer



Claire graduated from UTAS in 2005 with a Management Degree, majoring in Marketing and Human Resource Management. She joined TILES as a graduate entrant, and will be concentrating mostly on the AERF-Social Norms Research with Dr Clarissa Hughes.

Claire feels that this research will give her a great opportunity to develop her skills through helping organise events and informing people of the research and its importance.

The Director and the Management Committee warmly welcome two new staff members to TILES.

Mary Eckhardt
TILES Jr. Research Fellow



Mary enrolled as a PhD Candidate in 2005. She joined the research staff of the Institute to assist the Director in a range of research, development and administration functions.

Mary has undertaken quantitative data analysis of conviction records for the U-Turn Evaluation, helped produce the TILES Newsletters, Briefing Papers and website. She is currently providing literature reviews and grant application research for the Director.

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