

THE FIFTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL

The Fifth Bi-ennial National Conference of the Australian Crime Prevention Correction and After-Care Council (A.C.P.C.A.C.) was held in Perth in August, 1969.

This was the first Conference held following the change of name and the widening of the objects of the organisation.

Delegates (144 in number) came from all the States of Australia, the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, the Territory of Papua and New Guinea and from Hong Kong. Delegates included judges, magistrates, Commissioners of Police, Comptrollers of Prisons, lawyers, police officers, criminologists, psychiatrists, parole and probation officers, prison officers, child welfare officers, representatives of the Churches, Salvation Army officers, a representative of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, representatives of the armed services, Prisoners' Aid Associations, Civil Rehabilitation Committees, other voluntary agencies, and many interested individuals.

Speakers, commentators and panelists included a bishop, a politician, a journalist, police officers, teachers, social workers, magistrates, a child welfare officer, prison administrators, probation and parole officers, representatives of voluntary agencies, ex-prisoners, judges, lawyers, employers, a trade unionist, criminologists, psychiatrists, a psychologist, a migration officer, female probation and parole officers.

Overseas guests and principal speakers were:

Professor I.Drapkin, Institute of Criminology,  
University of Israel, Israel.

Professor R.Drinkwater, Department of Social Administration,  
University of Hull, United Kingdom.

The theme of the Conference was "Crime is your business -- a national perspective".

Business sessions had as their subjects:

"The United Nations' Role in Crime Prevention"

"Problems Confronting the Parent"

"Problems facing the Educator"

"The Problem of the Young Offender"

"Law Enforcement - Problems of the Police"

"The Problems of the Prison Administrator"

"Problems in Probation and Parole"

"Community Participation in Correctional Work"

"Sentencing the Offender"

"Employment of Offenders"

"Alternatives to Imprisonment"

"The Forensic Psychiatrist's Place in Correction"

"The Immigrant and Crime"

"The Woman Offender -- Sentence, Treatment and Resettlement"

The resolutions of the Conference were:

Resolution 1:

That the Australian Crime Prevention, Correction and After-Care Council congratulates the Commonwealth Government on announcing its decision to establish a National Institute of Criminology. The Council asks that, in regard to the proposed training programme for police, prison and parole officers and others working in the field, especially courses in which members of different professions are represented, adequate provision should be made to accommodate members from other countries in the South-East Asian region as well as Australian members. Moved Mrs.G.N.Frost, Seconded Mrs.W.B.Lang Carried.

Resolution 2:

That the Australian Crime Prevention, Correction and After-Care Council believes that, in keeping with the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child, it is wrong to deprive a young child of the maternal care which is its right by separating it from its mother when its mother is subjected to a term of imprisonment. Therefore, the Council urges that adequate and proper provision be made within our women's prisons for a child up to the age of three years to stay in the care of the mother during her imprisonment if and when this is deemed desirable.

Moved Mrs.G.N.Frost, Seconded Mrs.W.B.Lang Carried.

Resolution 3:

a. That the Australian Crime Prevention, Correction and After-Care Council appoints a sub-committee of three members to review the present Constitution and to make recommendations for its alteration and extension to govern more adequately the activities and policies of the Council, and that the sub-committee be appointed by the incoming Executive.

b. That, in the process of examination of the Constitution by the sub-committee, steps be taken to provide wider State and Commonwealth representation on the Executive, and that each State be represented on the Executive in the fields of the administration of Justice, police, prisons, probation and parole, voluntary organisations and child welfare, and that the Commonwealth Government be given additional representation from the Attorney-General's Department, and that there be a representative from the Armed Services.

c. That the State and Territorial representatives on the Executive be charged with the formation of State and Territorial Councils in their respective States and Territories.

d. That the time limited for the sub-committee to complete its task be four months and that its recommendations be voted on within a further three months.

Moved: Mrs.G.N.Frost, Seconded: Mr.F.D.Hayes Carried.

Resolution 4:

That this Council express its appreciation to the armed services for the presence of their representatives at this Conference; and that it be requested that the services (in the areas of military police and military corrections) be affiliated with this Council.

Moved: Mr.Samuels, Seconded: Mr.C.R.Bevan Carried

Resolution 5:

That this Council appoint a representative sub-committee to investigate and report to the next bi-ennial Conference of this Council upon the subject of whether or not a relationship of confidentiality exists and, if so, to what extent in the following relationships:-

parole officer and parolee  
probation officer and probationer  
prison chaplain and prisoner  
after-care social worker and prisoner client  
after-care social worker and ex-prisoner client  
voluntary worker and ex-prisoner client  
psychiatrist and unconvicted person on remand  
psychiatrist and prisoner

Moved: Mr.A.B.C.Wilson, Seconded: Mrs.G.N.Frost Carried

Resolution 6:

That the following resolution as circulated prior to this Conference be referred to the incoming Executive and that a working party be established to examine the points raised in the resolution for the purpose of providing factual material for the assistance of the incoming Executive:-

"That the several Governments in Australia (State and Federal) be urged by this Council to examine the practises in their respective States or Territories for the visiting of prisoners, and take steps to conform at least with certain basic requirements:-

a. That adequate facilities be made available to official visitors in the person of police officers, solicitors, parole officers, probation officers, chaplains, psychiatrists, psychologists, Prisoners' Aid social workers and other recognised official prison visitors.

b. That adequate facilities (with no partitions and only under discreet supervision) be made available to unofficial visitors in the person of members of Civil Rehabilitation and Regional Committees, prison visitors, prospective employers and friends and relatives.

c. That encouragement be given to any persons seeking to organise groups of prison visitors along lines similar to the National Association of Prison Visitors in the United Kingdom.

- d. That encouragement be given to the formation within prisons of Resurgents Groups and the introduction into the prisons of groups of experts in various fields on a voluntary basis.
- e. That encouragement be given to visits from sporting clubs, debating clubs, Church and similar groups.
- f. That offenders be given the opportunity to receive visits from family and friends weekly, and that such visits be for a minimum duration of thirty minutes.
- g. That all prisoners be given the opportunity to receive visits on any day of the week including public holidays.
- h. That generous visiting facilities be available to prisoners serving sentences in minimum security institutions and open institutions.
- i. That a suitably furnished waiting room be provided for friends or relatives of prisoners and that waiting time be reduced to a minimum.
- j. That except where the interests of security warrant it, no undue restrictions be placed upon visitors conversing privately and directly with prisoners.

(It is accepted that prison regulations may require prison visiting rights to be withheld as a matter of punishment in certain circumstances)."

Moved: Mr.A.B.C.Wilson, Seconded: Mr.C.Wright-Webster Carried.

Resolution 7:

That this Council appoint a representative sub-committee to investigate and report to the next biennial Conference upon the subject of "The Alternatives to Imprisonment and Detention and Progressive Variations in Current Practices".

Moved: Mr.A.B.C.Wilson, Seconded: Mr.R.J.Kidney Carried.

Resolution 8:

That, in order to ensure the orderly development and future financial stability of the Council, this Conference requests the incoming Executive to ask each State Government and the Federal Government to consider making a permanent budgetary item of say \$2000 each per annum as a grant to the Council.

Moved: Mr.J.G.Mackay, Seconded: Mrs.G.N.Frost Carried.

Resolution 9:

That, in view of the proposal made at the Third National Conference of this Council concerning the establishment of a National Institute of Criminology, it is requested that the Federal Attorney-General be asked to permit representation of the Council within the Institute's Advisory