



## Welcome to TILES

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Management Committee, I welcome you to our first Newsletter. We expect to publish three newsletters each year - in January, May/June and September.

The Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies (TILES), formed by the University of Tasmania (UTAS) and the Tasmanian Department of Police and Public Safety (DPPS), is based in the School of Government, Faculty of Arts, at the University of Tasmania, Australia. Established in August 2002, TILES is a clear example of a well performing partnership between the State Government and the University of Tasmania. TILES is the focal point for all research conducted in law enforcement at the University of Tasmania. This ensures a cohesive, co-ordinated approach across the spectrum.

After an international search process, Associate Professor Roberta Julian, formerly of the School of Sociology and Social Work at the University of Tasmania, was appointed as the Director of TILES in July 2003.

TILES is fortunate to have as Associate Director, an international expert on policing, Associate Professor Lorraine Mazerolle from the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University, Queensland.

TILES receives strategic direction from the Board of Directors. The Board comprises the following members:

- Sir Max Bingham QC, Chair
- Mr Richard McCreadie, Commissioner of Police, TAS
- Professor Andrew Glenn, Pro Vice Chancellor (Research), UTAS
- Associate Professor Marcus Haward, Head of School of Government, UTAS
- Mr Jack Johnston, Deputy Commissioner of Police, TAS
- Professor Jan Pakulski, Dean of Arts, UTAS
- Ms Linda Hornsey, Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, TAS

Ms Joanne Blackburn, First Assistant Secretary, Attorney General's Department, Criminal Justice Division, ACT

- Mr Rudie Sypkes, Sypkes Group Managing Director
- Ms Margie O'Rourke, Area General Manager, Telstra

TILES research focuses on prevention, enforcement and corrections. Theme areas include:

- Drug Law Enforcement
- Youth Crime Prevention
- Natural Resource Management and Environmental Crime

Research outcomes will have a significant impact on crime prevention and law enforcement, at local, national and international levels.

These outcomes are directed in the first instance towards Tasmanian State Government strategies, as identified in Tasmania *Together*. The Tasmania *Together* Progress Board Act 2001 established the Tasmania *Together* Progress Board to monitor, promote and report on:

- a long-term social, environmental and economic plan for the State's development for a period of 20 years; and
- an overarching framework for planning, budgeting and policy priorities for the government and non-government sectors.

TILES research theme areas specifically address the Tasmania *Together* second Goal.

- To have a community where people feel safe and are safe in all aspects of their lives.

TILES research outcomes are also directed towards the Australian Government's National Research Priorities, which were announced by the Prime Minister in 2002. TILES specifically addresses research under two of the Australian Government's four Priority Areas. The first of these is Safeguarding



**Director TILES**

*Associate Professor Roberta Julian*

Australia with particular emphasis on its Priority Goal of "protecting Australia from terrorism and crime" and the second of these is Promoting and Maintaining Good Health with particular emphasis on its Priority Goal of "strengthening Australia's social and economic fabric".

In summary, law enforcement services to the state, national and international community will be positively impacted by evidence based practices.

In this first TILES Newsletter, we provide an overview of our research program in 2004 and 2005. This encompasses national competitive research grants, consultancies and service contracts.

TILES has recently realised \$0.5 million worth of research and consultancy income. TILES has established a strong foundation and is now in a position to move positively towards achieving its vision. We invite you to view our website at <http://www.utas.edu.au/tiles>

I hope that you will maintain an interest in our progress and the outcomes of TILES research. I look forward to communicating, and possibly collaborating, with you in the future.

Roberta Julian  
Director

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# Overview of Completed TILES Projects

## **Forensic Science and Policing in Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria**

*Funding: National Institute of Forensic Science (NIFS)*

In September 2002, a pilot project was conducted in Tasmania for a national study of forensic science and policing in Australia. The study was undertaken by NIFS with advice and expertise being provided by researchers at the University of Tasmania through TILES. The primary aim of the study was to determine the level of awareness of forensic science and what it offers different groups. That is, it focused on police officers' perceptions of needs and 'gaps' in their awareness of forensic science, and on their perceptions of areas where forensic science has the potential to add value to their roles and functions. This study was followed up in South Australia in 2003 and then in Victoria in 2004.

## **Evaluation of U-Turn Project in Tasmania**

*Funding: Australian Government Attorney-General's Department (AGD) through the National Crime Prevention (NCP) program and the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC)*

The U-Turn Program, delivered by Mission Australia, was part of a national pilot of the Young Vehicle Theft Offender Program funded by the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department (AGD) in conjunction with the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC). TILES was contracted to conduct the evaluation of U-Turn in Tasmania.

The program targets young people aged 15 – 20 years with a history of motor vehicle theft offences and those who are 'at risk' through circumstances such as family breakdown, anti-social behaviour, unemployment, abuse, truancy, substance abuse, or being excluded from mainstream services. At the core of the program is a structured ten-week automotive education and training course (general car maintenance and body work) within the environment of a mechanical workshop. Eight courses were held in the 24 months of the pilot, with 10 participants in each course. Course participants had an opportunity to partake in road safety education and gain assistance to acquire a learner's permit and/or drivers licence. They also had an opportunity to develop their literacy and numeracy skills.

The evaluation demonstrated that U-Turn was successful in achieving its key objectives.

## **Evaluation of the U-Turn Supported Accommodation**

*Funding: The Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF)*

The U-Turn program acquired a house in Warrane, Southern Tasmania and appointed a supported housing care worker. This added an important and influential component to U-Turn. The structure of U-Turn allowed for significant comparative analysis between those in a residential program and those who were not. It is known that whether one remains in, or is removed from, one's usual environment can have a major impact on the success of programs aimed at behavioural change. This addition to the U-Turn Project provided an exciting opportunity to investigate wider environmental and social factors.

## **Safe at Home – Risk Assessment Screening Tool (RAST)**

*Funding: Department of Police and Public Safety (DPPS)*

Safe at Home involves a range of initiatives and new services that represent a significant change to the way Tasmania responds to family violence: family violence is to be treated as a crime rather than a private matter. The Safe at Home Project is an innovative, whole of Government approach developed

to lessen the occurrence and impact of family violence in Tasmania. It involves legislative change and new approaches to assessing risk and enhancing the safety of the victims of family violence, including children.

This project involved a review of the diagnostic instrument utilised by Tasmania Police to assess the risk of family violence. It undertook an evaluation of past and present risk assessment tools. An academic panel was established to review the results. Recommendations were made on the current tool to inform future use and training needs.

## **Mass Survey of Blood Donors & Non-Donors for Australian Red Cross Blood Service**

*Funding: Australian Research Council (ARC)*

TILES conducted a mass survey of blood donors and non-donors for the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS). The survey was conducted as part of an ARC Linkage Grant awarded to Dr Megan Alessandrini (School of Government, University of Tasmania) and Professor Ian Buchanan (Charles Darwin University). The survey, which was distributed to a national sample of approximately 25,000 people, aimed to establish how blood donation is linked to lifestyles and communities, and to find out who donates blood and why. The ARCBS anticipates that the findings from this research will enable them to increase the numbers of blood donors in Australia.

This project demonstrated that TILES has the capacity to undertake large scale survey research on a national level.

# Overview of Current TILES Projects

## **Research Grants and Consultancies**

### **Community Policing & Refugee Settlement in Regional Australia - A Case Study of Tasmania**

*Funding: Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant, Industry Partners: Department of Immigration & Multicultural & Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) and Department of Police and Public Safety (DPPS).*

This 3-year project will describe, analyse and theorise police-refugee relations in regional Australia. It compares refugee settlement in three rural/regional areas in Tasmania through the lens of police-refugee relations. In particular, it will identify ways in which community policing can enhance settlement experiences and reduce crime among refugees in regional Australia. It is significant in that it examines both positive and negative aspects of community policing in the context of refugee settlement in order to develop a best-practice model. Given the Government's recent policy of encouraging settlement in regional Australia, there is a need to analyse these processes.

### **Comparative Analysis of Streetsafe in Hobart and Launceston**

*Funding: National Roads and Motorists' Association (NRMA)*

In recent years there has been an increase throughout Australia in public concern over safety and comfort in public spaces. In Tasmania, public safety and substance abuse issues were also identified as important issues in the community consultations that led to the development of Tasmania *Together*, the State Government's statement on strategic priorities for the next 20 years. The development and implementation of Streetsafe occurred in response to these community concerns.

The project involves a comparative analysis of two community safety programs with the aim of developing a best practice model that would be transferable to other sites in Tasmania and in other Australian states and territories. The overall goal of Streetsafe is to positively influence the determinants of community safety. The program has four key objectives. To:

- reduce the problems arising from under-age drinking
- reduce public drunkenness
- prevent alcohol and drug related offences and violence
- improve safe and responsible road usage

This research has already attracted interest in the media. The project will be completed in June 2005.

### **Effective Strategies for Tackling Drug and Related Problems on Social Housing Estates**

*Funding: National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF)*

TILES is collaborating with the Housing and Community Research Unit (HACRU) in the School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania, on this 2-year project.

Since social housing estates are the location in which many drug related problems occur there is considerable scope for housing managers and law enforcement agencies to establish effective and sustainable working partnerships in order to address these problems in a more comprehensive way. The project objectives are to:

- Identify successful partnership arrangements taking place in other countries and assess their relevance for Australia
- Identify practical ways in which law enforcement agencies can police social housing estates more effectively
- Facilitate the establishment of, and then evaluate, three policing/housing partnerships to address drug related problems (Devonport, Tasmania; Richmond/Collingwood, Victoria; and Girrawheen, Western Australia)
- Compare the new working partnerships with more traditional law enforcement methods currently being deployed
- Produce a best practice guide for housing managers and law enforcement agencies to address drug and alcohol related issues on housing estates
- Identify the practical steps necessary to ensure that each project's successes can be sustained in the long-term.

### **Enhancing the Implementation and Management of Drug Diversion Strategies in Australian Law Enforcement Agencies**

*Funding: National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF)*

This project systematically assesses the implementation and management of drug diversion strategies in law enforcement agencies in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. It will identify evidence-based good practice. Fundamental to the project is the development of an implementation and management matrix and a performance-strengthening evaluation model that can be applied to, and by, all police organisations in Australia.

It is an innovative project that draws on the expertise of researchers in the fields of policy studies, administrative law, criminology, police studies and public sector management. It also draws on the expertise of police practitioners.

Fundamental to the project is its portability and applicability across law enforcement agencies and over diversion frameworks. It is envisaged that the project outcomes will be applied to all law enforcement agencies in Australia. It is also anticipated that there will be significant benefits for stakeholders in the judicial and health sectors.

The project methodology will involve three identical mass surveys administered to all police officers in Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia seeking information about their perceptions of, and orientations toward, their State's drug diversion strategies. Extensive face to face interviews will also be conducted with other key judicial and health stakeholders.

### **Forensic Science & Policing in a Cross-Cultural Context The Case of Australian Police in Bali**

*Funding: University of Tasmania through its Institutional Research Grants Scheme (IRGS)*

This pilot project aims to identify key social, cultural and organisational factors that affected the work of Australian forensic police and scientists who were deployed in Bali as part of the Disaster Victim Identification team. While the research focuses on members of Tasmania Police it will also involve interviews with members of the AFP and Indonesian Police, analysis of media reports on Australian-Indonesian police relations and an organisational analysis of the various police services.

The research will analyse an important area of expertise available among Tasmania Police and contribute to the development of benchmarks in cross-cultural training for Australian police being deployed in the Asia-Pacific region. The research has the potential to contribute to the positioning of Tasmania and TILES as a key site for training and research in forensic and community policing for Australian police being deployed in the Asia-Pacific region. This research will add value to previous research by TILES on forensic science and policing.

### **Evaluation of Project Currawong**

*Funding: Department of Police and Public Safety (DPPS)*

Project Currawong is an early intervention and diversionary program aimed at addressing risk while building and enhancing protective factors for young people deemed to be 'at risk' and/or for young offenders. Project Currawong is an extension of two previous pilot projects that resulted in significant downward trends in levels of offending, positive attitudinal changes and a reduction in aggressive behaviour toward authority figures among the participants. Building on the original Project Hahn model, a three-tiered program has been developed concentrating on client groups with specific needs and risk factors. After completion of the course the aim is to successfully reintegrate participants into their community or to assist them to work towards their goals.

The focus of the project is on:

- Breaking the cycle of offending
- Reducing recidivism
- Facilitating employment and educational opportunities
- Improving coordination of services when managing/mentoring young people
- Assisting personal change and building self-resilience rather than dependence
- Reconnecting young people 'at risk' with their community
- Building the community's capacity to resolve youth issues

The research is evidence-based and aims to identify best-practice in wilderness-based youth diversionary programs.

### **Local Implementation of Ramsar Convention Obligations: Grassroots Governance in China and Australia**

*Funding: University of Tasmania through its Institutional Research Grants Scheme (IRGS)*

This project will examine local implementation of Ramsar Convention obligations in China and Australia. It aims to identify patterns of local governance and the impact these have on the implementation of, and compliance with, Convention obligations. Factors facilitating and impeding compliance will be identified. The project will help fill a significant gap in understanding grassroots implementation of international environmental agreements.

## Service Contracts

### Workplace Diversity Survey

*Funding: Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)*

The new State Service Act came into effect on 1 May 2001 giving Agencies more flexibility in organising work practices as well as encouraging modern management practices in the workplace. State Service Principles and a Code of Conduct have been incorporated into the State Service Act replacing set and often inflexible rules and regulations.

Workplace Diversity is described in the State Service Principles as:

The State Service provides a workplace that is free from discrimination and recognises and utilises the diversity of the community it serves.

The DHHS has developed a Workplace Diversity Management Plan to implement the principles and values of 'Workplace Diversity'.

The Workplace Diversity Survey is one performance indicator that has been identified as useful for measuring the success of the workplace diversity plan. TILES has been contracted to provide advice in relation to the development and implementation of this survey.

TILES has expertise in survey design and implementation and is collaborating with the DHHS to develop and analyse a proposed survey on Workplace Diversity to be implemented in 2005.

### State Service Employee Survey (Pilot)

*Funding: Office of the State Service Commissioner (OSSC)*

TILES has been contracted to provide advice to the Tasmanian OSSC on the development and implementation of a State Service Employee Survey. The aim of the survey is to determine the extent to which State Service employees believe that the work practices and culture that prevail in their workplace reflect a commitment to the State Service Principles. The information derived from the Survey will be used, in conjunction with information obtained from the annual Tasmanian State Service Agency Survey, to inform the work that the Commissioner undertakes to uphold, promote and ensure adherence to the State Service Principles.

## University Courses

TILES has a close affiliation with the School of Government's Police Studies program. The program offers both undergraduate and post graduate courses that have a significant emphasis on the wide ranging law enforcement spectrum.

The Police Studies courses are unique in that they provide for majors across various disciplines. These include:-

- Police Studies
- History
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Human Resource Management
- Information Systems
- Public Policy

The courses available are:-

- Bachelor of Social Science (Police Studies)
- Graduate Certificate in Police Studies
- Graduate Diploma in Police Studies
- Master in Police Studies

The course co-ordinator is Dr Robert Hall. Dr Hall is also a member of the TILES Management Committee.

The Police Studies courses are strongly supported by Tasmania Police. The courses have proven to be highly sought after by persons interested in a career in policing (although normal police application criteria still have to be satisfied), a research career or a career in the social sciences.

The Police Studies courses provide a quality academic base in an arena that is becoming tertiary focussed. TILES and Police Studies at the University of Tasmania complement each other and are ideally positioned to extend the body of knowledge that surrounds law enforcement. The close relationship serves to position students well and has the potential to provide unique opportunities.

If you need further information about admission or the courses offered by the faculty, please contact:-

Client Services on 1300 363 864

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Facsimile: (03) 63 243026

Email for course information:  
course.info@utas.edu.au

Email for admissions enquires:  
admissions@utas.edu.au

University website:  
<http://www.utas.edu.au>

General information about starting university, application procedures, fees, accommodation and advice on course selection is available at <http://www.utas.edu.au> Select the link to "Future Students."

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