



# TASMANIAN INSTITUTE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT STUDIES





# The Institute

- Formed by the University of Tasmania and the Department of Police and Public Safety (DPPS) in August 2002
- Conducts and promotes evidence based research to improve the quality of law enforcement



## Theme Areas

- Drug Law Enforcement
- Youth Crime Prevention
- Natural Resources and Environmental Crime
- Trans-national crime



# Organisational Overview

- Board of Directors
- Management Committee
- Director
- Staff
- Research Steering Committee
- Research Fellows
- Research Associates



# Research Expertise

- Policing
- Public Policy-Making
- Social Geography
- International Relations
- Information Systems
- Pharmacology
- Rural Health
- Criminology
- Psychology
- Law
- Philosophy
- History
- Sociology
- Law Enforcement



## Research Expertise..cont

- Community Policing
- Youth Justice
- Corrective practice
- E-crime and fraud
- Trans-national crime
- Drug Law Enforcement



# Research Activities

- **Service Contracts**

Provide expertise in survey

- design,
- delivery, and
- analysis.

- **Evaluations**



## Research Activities cont..

### Competitive Research Grants

- Participate at the national and international level
- Conduct collaborative and interdisciplinary research
- Respond to the needs of
  - law enforcement agencies
  - community groups



# Research Higher Degree (RHD) Candidates

- The Institute currently provides supervision of RHD projects for
  - MA and PhD awards
  - full fee paying postgraduate degrees.



# TILES PhD candidates



Liberal governmentality and the  
Constitution and Negotiation of Aboriginality in  
Tasmania



Policing and the Environment



Exploring ideas of health with  
African refugee  
women in Tasmania



The Fear of Crime – the Crime of Fear



Interagency collaboration  
and service delivery in  
youth justice diversionary programs.



Community Policing and Refugee  
Settlement  
in Regional Australia



The Forensic Scrutiny of  
Intimate Relationships



Gendered Careers in  
Australian Policing



# TILES Research Model

Prevention

Enforcement

Corrections

- Interdisciplinary Research



# Research Structure

- Steering Committee
  - Inter-disciplinary
  - Multi-jurisdictional
  - Law Enforcement Representation
- Research Committee
- Research Fellow and Research Associate



# Current and Completed Projects

- Evaluation of the U-turn Project
- Evaluation of the U-turn Supported Accommodation
- Comparative Analysis of Streetsafe
- Drug Diversion Evaluations
- Forensic Science and Policing
- Drug and Related Problems on Social Housing Estates
- Forensic Policing in a Cross Cultural Context
- Local implementation of Ramsar Convention Obligations



## Current and Completed Projects cont...

- Community Policing and Refugee Settlement in Regional Australia
- Evaluation of Project Currawong
- Safe at Home – Risk Assessment Screening Tool
- UTAS Postgraduate Exit Survey
- DHHS Workplace Diversity Survey
- Office of State Service Commission Employee Survey
- Social Norms, Drugs Alcohol and Young People



## The U-Turn Project

- Young Recidivist Car Theft Offender Program
- Targets young people 15-20 years with a motor vehicle theft history
- Offers an automotive education and training course
- Road safety education, literacy and numeracy skills



## U-Turn Background

- The theft of older vehicles by young people for transport, or to commit another crime, is the most common form of vehicle theft in Australia.
- One of the top three priorities of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) is to divert young offenders from vehicle theft.
- Consistent with this focus, the NMVTRC developed a 'best practice' model for a young recidivist car theft offender program.



## U-turn aims

- 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 of 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.



## U-Turn Evaluation

- The U-Turn program is also being 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 Apartment is funding a meta-evaluation across all four pilot sites.
- The Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies (TILES) was contracted by Tasmania Police to conduct the local evaluation of the U-Turn pilot project.



# The U-Turn Project

- 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.



## U-Turn Program

- A formal workshop program was conducted over a 10 week period.
- Some of the participants who dropped out of a course were invited to re-enrol in a later course if the Youth Worker considered that their circumstances or levels of motivation had changed in such a way that it seemed they would benefit from participation.



# U-Turn Activities

- All aspects of the formal workshop program were implemented including:
  - orientation;
  - a weekly program consisting of modules in: communication; motor vehicle mechanics, panel beating and spray painting; life skills; literacy and numeracy; and road safety and driver education;
  - recreational activities;
  - vocational support;
  - case management;
  - mentor relationship;
  - exit strategy plan and options;
  - graduation ceremony



## U-Turn Program participants

- There were 83 participants in the U -Turn Program in Tasmania covering 8 courses.
- 53 participants actually graduated from the program, having completed the full ten-week course.
- All completing participants were male and were aged between 14 and 21 with the average age being 17.



# U-Turn in Tasmania

The U-Turn house in Glenorchy



The workshop



*The U-Turn Workshop*



# U-Turn activities



Participants also raced go-karts

*One of the U-Turn go-karts in action at Orielson.*

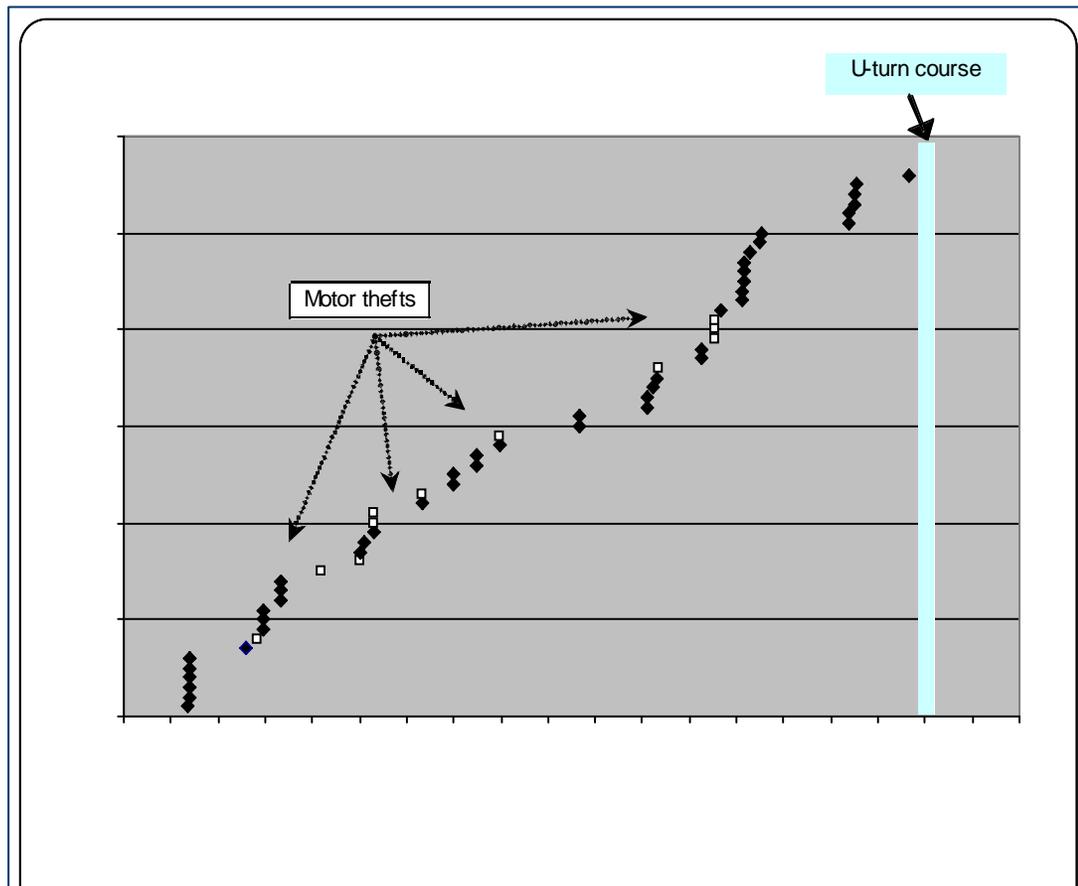


# Strategies for evaluation

- **Process evaluation**
  - On-site program reviews
  - Surveys of stakeholders
  - Document searches
- **Outcome evaluation**
  - Quantitative data analysis
  - Qualitative interviews (participants, significant others, program staff)



# U-Turn analysis



Results of one participant who had committed auto theft and completed the course



## U-Turn future funding

- 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.



# New Research Horizons

- Social Norms Drugs, Alcohol and Young People
  - Risk taking is often based on conformity to imaginary peers. Addresses perceptions to influence behaviours
  - A participatory action research project
  - Aims to address problems of substance abuse among youth in rural areas – binge drinking
  - Minimise alcohol related harm



## Social Norms Drugs, Alcohol and Young People



*Dr Clarrisa Cook University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) UTAS*

- TILES and UDRH are excited about conducting the first Australian trials of the Social Norms approach to substance abuse prevention in Tasmania.
- TILES and UDRH have just been awarded nearly \$500 000 to conduct trials in Huonville and on the West coast of Tasmania, starting January 2006.



# Social Norms background

- There is a sense of urgency surrounding a key health problem of our time: high-risk drinking.
- Misuse of alcohol is responsible for much of the acute and chronic disease burden, and is associated with mental health problems, suicides, and motor vehicle and other accidents.



## Background cont..

- Risky drinking among young people, in particular, is widely regarded as an important public health issue not only because of the various harms incurred in the short term, but also because of the multitude of health, personal and social implications that are likely to affect people later in the life-course
- Australian youth in rural and remote communities are of particular concern since they consume alcohol at more harmful levels than their metropolitan counterparts



# What is “Social Norms”

- One recent prevention approach that is gaining in popularity and deemed worthy of the label of ‘sociologically-informed’, is known as ‘Social Norms’ (SN). SN has a theoretical basis in social-psychology, and draws upon theories of peer identity formation, conformity and cognitive dissonance.
- A distinctive feature of SN is its clarification and utilisation of peer-related influences on behaviour.
- The SN approach has been extensively employed in the United States, and has been heralded as an effective strategy for reducing alcohol-related harm in youthful populations by identifying and correcting such attitudinal and behavioural misperceptions



# Stages of intervention

- The basic stages of an SN intervention are as follows:
  - The initial phase involves the collection of baseline self-report data about use and attitudes.
  - These data are then analysed and the key messages are crafted, with an emphasis on positivity. (for example, '70% of High school students have three or fewer drinks when they party'). Scare tactics and negative slants are notably absent.
  - The next phase involves the incorporation of the key messages (i.e. the 'actual norms') into a media campaign utilising radio, flyers, screensavers, and newspaper ads, for example, that is then delivered intensively to the target population.



# The American experience

- In a survey of 4-year colleges nationwide in the US in 1999, 20% of the colleges surveyed reported having conducted social norms marketing campaigns, and by 2001 this figure had risen to nearly 50%.(28)
- There is a growing body of evidence of encouraging and often dramatic reductions in high-risk drinking among target populations in metropolitan and non-metropolitan settings.



# Collaborative approach

- TILES and UDRH are excited about conducting the first Australian trial of the SN approach.
- They are confident that the collaboration involving the University of Tasmania, Tasmania Police, local and state government representatives, health care professionals, schools and rural community will work effectively towards achieving shared objectives.



## Further Information

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