Understanding and Preventing Youth Violence
Wednesday July 9th, 2008

The Ian Hanger Recital Hall
Queensland Conservatorium
Griffith University,
South Bank Campus,
Brisbane, Queensland

Supported by:
Griffith University
Qld Dept Premier & Cabinet
Qld Dept of Communities
Qld Police Service
Welcome

Welcome to the 2008 Youth Violence Symposium hosted by the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance and the Violence Research and Prevention Program at Griffith University.

Youth violence is an issue that affects many families and communities in Australia, and indeed throughout the world. The challenges and consequences of youth violence are significant and varied and require effective responses from both the government and non-government sectors.

Effective responses to youth violence require an expanded research evidence base as well as effective partnerships between researchers, policy makers and practitioners. This symposium provides a unique opportunity to be informed about current research on youth violence as well as some of the effective responses being implemented. The importance of developing and implementing effective interventions to prevent youth violence is a prominent theme of the symposium.

Bringing together some of the leading experts in the world provides a wonderful opportunity for fostering greater understanding and awareness between researchers, policy experts, practitioners and community representatives in working toward tangible solutions to prevent youth violence.

Thank you for participating in this symposium. Special thanks are also due to the sponsors of this event, Griffith University, the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Department of Communities, and the Queensland Department of Premier and Cabinet. I anticipate that the symposium will illustrate both the challenges we face in preventing youth violence as well as the importance of working together to develop practical and effective solutions.

Sincerely,

Professor Paul Mazerolle
Director, Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance
Director, Violence Research and Prevention Program
Program

8:00 - 8:45  Registration
Tea and coffee will be served

8:45 – 9:05  Welcome & overview
Professor Paul Mazerolle
Director, KCELJAG

8:05 – 9:15  Official welcome & opening
The Honourable Judy Spence
Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport

9:15 - 10:00  Counterproductive effects on youth violence in the United States
Professor Alfred Blumstein
H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA

10:00 - 10:30  Modifiable determinants of youth violence in Australia and the United States: A longitudinal Study
Dr Sheryl Hemphill
Senior Research Fellow, Victorian Centre for Adolescent Health; Senior Research Fellow, Deakin University

10:30 – 11:00  Morning Tea Break

11:00 to 11:35  Developmental origins of physical aggression
Professor Daniel Nagin
H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA

11:35 - 12:15  The prevention, treatment and management of conduct disorders
Professor David Fergusson
Principal Investigator and Executive Director of the Christchurch Health and Development Study (CHDS), University of Otago, Christchurch, New Zealand

12:15 - 1:00  Lunch Break

1:00 - 1:45  Grassroots Efforts to Prevent Youth Violence
There is no reset button
Mr. Paul Stanley
Matthew Stanley Foundation, Queensland

More than statistics: The aftermath of homicide and the role of victims’ advocates
Ms Jonty Bush
Queensland Homicide Victims’ Support Group
Program

1:45 – 3:15  Current Contexts for Preventing Youth Violence

*Communities that care in Australia: Encouraging evidence-based crime and violence prevention within local communities*
Professor John W. Toumbourou
School of Psychology, Deakin University

*Bullying in schools*
Professor Ken Rigby
University of South Australia

*Regulating drinking establishments to reduce violence*
Professor Ross Homel
Director, Strategic Research Program for the Social and Behavioural Sciences, Griffith University

3:15 - 3:30  Afternoon Tea Break

3:30 - 4.45  Panel Discussion

*The challenges of translating research evidence into effective policy and practice to prevent youth violence*
Dr Don Weatherburn,
Director, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Professor David Fergusson,
University of Otaga, Christchurch, New Zealand

Professor Toni Makkai
Dean, College of Arts and Social Sciences, Australian National University

Mr Tony Keyes,
Qld Department of Premier and Cabinet

Mr Alan Davey,
Assistant Commissioner, Queensland Police Service

Commissioner Elizabeth Fraser,
Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, Queensland

4:45 – 4:55  Overview of the Day
Professor Paul Mazerolle
Director, Key Centre For Ethics, Law, Justice And Governance, Griffith University

4:55 - 5:00  Official Close
Ms Rachel Nolan
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communities, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Seniors and Youth

5:00 - 7:00  Reception
Professor Alfred Blumstein

Counterproductive effects on youth violence in the United States

Abstract
One important aspect of recent juvenile violence in the US was associated with the market for crack cocaine. Its early introduction was associated with violence, so the political system responded with massive incarceration for drug offenses. Since drug markets are resilient and can recruit replacements, one important unintended consequence of the incarceration was the recruitment of young people who represented a greater threat in the community than the people they replaced. We examine this issue and present a variety of data and analysis bearing on it.

Dr Sheryl Hemphill

Modifiable determinants of youth violence in Australia and the United States: A longitudinal study

Abstract
This presentation will examine whether the factors that influence the development of youth violence are similar in Victoria, Australian and Washington State, United States. Representative samples of almost 6000 students in grades 5, 7 and 9 were surveyed in 2002 and 2003 (99% retention). Analyses have shown similarities and important differences in the predictors of youth violence in the two states. The implications of these findings for practice in Australia will be discussed.

Professor Dan Nagin

Developmental origins of physical aggression

Abstract
A recent report of the World Health Organization on Violence and Health, citing the Surgeon General of the US, concludes: "the majority of young people who become violent are adolescent-limited offenders who, in fact, show little or no evidence of high levels of aggression or other problem behaviors during their childhood". Evidence will be presented that challenges this widely held presumption that violence appears and increases substantially during adolescence. Instead it will be demonstrated that physical aggression begins at the earliest stages of life and that those individuals who are unable to regulate their physical aggression as children are at greatly elevated risk of violence in adolescences and beyond. Policy implications and prevention strategies will be discussed.
Abstracts

Professor David Fergusson

The prevention, treatment and management of conduct disorders

Abstract
This talk will provide a brief overview and discussion of the following topics:

i) Evidence on effective intervention for preventing, treating and managing conduct disorders in childhood and adolescence

ii) Identification of ineffective treatments

iii) The role of prevention science in developing a portfolio of effective intervention

Mr. Paul Stanley

There is no reset button

Abstract
The Matthew Stanley Foundation was established by Paul and Kay Stanley, parents of Matthew, who was 15 when he died after being bashed outside a teenagers’ party in September 2006.

Matt (who was known affectionately to his friends as Stanley) was a talented sportsman who also excelled academically at school. But what became apparent after his death was his enormous popularity. Without trying, he managed to touch the hearts of so many people, from his peers to young children and adults, students, teachers and parents. He simply stood out from the crowd.

The Stanleys’ tragic loss triggered an outpouring of grief in the local community that demanded action. In response to this, it was decided to form the Matthew Stanley Foundation. The Foundation – made up of Paul and Kay plus a group of concerned citizens – hopes to get the message out that senseless youth violence is unacceptable.

It aims to educate young people about how to avoid potentially dangerous situations and make parents and teenagers aware of possible risks at parties and what they can do to make them safer. If one life can be saved by the Foundation’s initiatives then young Stanley won’t have died in vain.

Ms. Jonty Bush

More than statistics: The aftermath of homicide and the role of victims’ advocates

Abstract
Last year, over fifty people were murdered in Queensland. Who are these people, how do we remember them, and importantly, what have we learnt from their deaths? More Than Statistics will challenge the myths surrounding homicide, and will highlight the role of a Victims Advocate in facilitating change within Queensland’s criminal justice system.
Abstracts

Professor John W. Toumbourou

Communities that care in Australia: Encouraging evidence-based crime and violence prevention within local communities

Abstract
The Communities That Care (CTC) process was developed in the United States to facilitate the implementation of science-based child and youth development programs within local communities. This presentation will describe the adaptation and implementation of the process in Australia and its relevance to crime and violence prevention. Observations will be presented from a recent national survey of 8,000 children and from experience assisting three “pioneer” communities through the implementation of the process in Australia.

Professor Ken Rigby

Bullying in schools

Abstract
Although there has been a notable rise in awareness of the personal and social problems associated with bullying in schools, there has been, as yet, quite limited evidence of the effectiveness of methods of intervention directed towards resolving cases of bullying in schools. In this presentation I will briefly review the present situation, what is known about the prevalence and consequences of school bullying, and how schools are responding to the problem. Especially, I will outline the primary methods currently in use for tackling cases of school bullying and comment upon their appropriateness.

Professor Ross Homel

Regulating drinking establishments to reduce violence

Abstract
Aggression and violence in and around drinking establishments remains a significant problem in most parts of the world, especially as the night-time economy expands. Young people in their late teens and early twenties are disproportionately at risk of being involved in incidents of violence, as victims or offenders or both.

In a new monograph, Raising the Bar (Willan, UK, 2008), Kate Graham and Ross Homel comprehensively review what is known about the causes of aggression in bars, clubs and pubs, drawing to a considerable extent on their own research over the past 20 years, especially their direct observational research in drinking establishments. They also review the international evidence on what works to prevent aggression and violence in these environments, concluding that there is little scientifically reliable evidence to guide policy. While there are some promising approaches, very few appear to produce sustainable reductions in violence, and none of the best approaches have been adequately tested outside their jurisdiction of origin.

Beginning where the book leaves off, this paper describes the methodology for an alcohol industry funded project in Australia and New Zealand designed to develop and operationalise a research design to test a comprehensive regulatory model that is capable of both achieving a reduction in aggression and violence in the licensed environment and sustaining this reduction over many years.
Professor Paul Mazerolle is Director of the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance and the Violence Research and Prevention program at Griffith University. Paul is also the Editor of the *Australia and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*. His previous appointments have included Head of Criminology, University of Queensland, and Director, Research and Prevention, Queensland Crime and Misconduct Commission.

Paul’s research expertise includes understanding dimensions of criminal careers and crime across the lifecourse. This area of research includes a focus on violence research, and on understanding the processes that shape continuity and change in offending and victimisation. His current research examines the consequences of violent victimisation for criminal offending careers, youth violence, the linkages between criminal offending and subsequent involvement in intimate partner violence, pathways to repeat victimisation, and effective justice responses to offending. Paul, who was a member of the recently completed Queensland State Government’s Youth Violence Taskforce is currently involved in two large Australian Research Council funded research projects, other locally funded research, as well as the international observatory of justice responses to domestic violence.

Alfred Blumstein is a University Professor and the J. Erik Jonsson Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research and former Dean (from 1986 to 1993) at the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management of Carnegie Mellon University. He is also Director of the National Consortium on Violence Research (NCOVR), funded by the National Science Foundation.

He has had extensive experience in both research and policy with the criminal justice system since serving the President’s Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice in 1966-67 as Director of its Task Force on Science and Technology. Dr. Blumstein was also a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Research on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice from its founding in 1975 until 1986. He served as Chairman of that committee between 1979 and 1984, and has chaired the committee’s panels on Research on Deterrent and Incapacitative Effects, on Sentencing Research, and on Research on Criminal Careers. He was a member of the Academy’s Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education from 1994-2000. In 1998, he was elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering.

Dr. Blumstein is a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology, was the 1987 recipient of the Society’s Sutherland Award for “contributions to research,” and was the president of the Society in 1991-92. At the 1998 meeting of the ASC, he was presented with the Wolfgang Award for Distinguished Achievement in Criminology. In 2007, he received the 2007 Stockholm Prize in Criminology.

His research over the past twenty years has covered many aspects of criminal-justice phenomena and policy, including crime measurement, criminal careers, sentencing, deterrence and incapacitation, prison populations, demographic trends, juvenile violence, and drug-enforcement policy.
Sheryl Hemphill

Sheryl Hemphill, PhD, is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Adolescent Health and Senior Research Fellow at Deakin University’s School of Psychology in Melbourne. She has extensive experience on longitudinal studies of child and adolescent development. Her research interests are in the development of adolescent violence, crime and substance use, as well as positive youth development.

Sheryl is also interested in the ways in which schools and communities respond to problem behaviour. She is the convenor of the violence and crime research group at the Centre for Adolescent Health campus.

Daniel S Nagin


Nagin is an elected Fellow of the American Society of Criminology and of the American Society for the Advancement of Science. He is the 2006 recipient of the American Society of Criminology’s Edwin H Sutherland Award (for research contributions) and is a 1985 recipient of the Northeastern Association of Tax Administrators Award for Excellence in Tax Administration. In 2008 he was selected as a University Professor by Carnegie Mellon University.

David Fergusson

For the last 30 years, Professor David Fergusson has been the Principal Investigator and Executive Director of the Christchurch Health and Development Study (CHDS). The CHDS is an internationally renowned longitudinal study of a birth cohort of 1,265 New Zealand children born in mid 1977. This cohort has now been studied from birth to the age of 30. Professor Fergusson is the author of over 300 scientific articles and books. His recent work has included research into: childhood sexual and physical abuse; family violence; youth unemployment; teenage pregnancy; juvenile delinquency; substance abuse; and youth mental health. His major research interests are the design and analysis of correlational studies and the study of personal adjustment in adolescence. He is also actively involved in the development and evaluation of an early intervention project - Early Start - a home visitation programme designed to address the needs of at-risk families with young children. He is fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and an honorary fellow of the New Zealand Psychological Society.
Ms Jonty Bush

Jonty has worked with the Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group for the past five years, and in that time has supported hundreds of families who have woken to the devastating news that someone they love has been murdered. In early 2007 Jonty accepted the role of CEO of the group, making her the youngest CEO and the first victim CEO in the history of the organisation. Jonty’s passion lies in encouraging growth and healing for victims of crime, a reduction of systemic traumatisation, and most importantly, in creating community debate and interest within the area of law and order. During the past twelve months, the group’s focus has been on driving the One Punch Can Kill campaign, to ensure that the message is clear - even the smallest act of violence can have devastating consequences.

John Toumbourou

John Winston Toumbourou is Professor and Chair in Health Psychology at Deakin University and a Senior Research Fellow within the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute at the Centre for Adolescent Health (Royal Children’s Hospital). John is a founding member and the current Chair of the College of Health Psychologists within the Australian Psychological Society. John’s interests include evaluation, drug abuse prevention and treatment, and the role of community, family and peer groups in adolescent health promotion. He has published over 180 articles and 50 referred journal papers. In 2005 he was awarded a 5-year VicHealth Senior Research Fellowship for his research program focusing on healthy youth development. In 2006 he received the award for International Collaborative Research from the Society for Prevention Research.

He is a Principal Investigator on a number of studies investigating healthy youth development including the Australian Temperament Project (investigating the role of childhood temperament and behaviour in the prediction of adolescent substance use, delinquency and depression), and the International Youth Development study (a collaborative longitudinal study with the University of Washington). John has also been involved in the development of a number of youth health promotion programs including - the Chronic Illness Peer Support Program (Victorian Public Health Award 1999), the Behaviour Exchange Systems Training program (targeting families experiencing youth substance abuse), Program for Parents (a national youth suicide prevention program demonstrating success in reducing early youth delinquency and substance use) and Communities That Care (a community mobilisation program targeting crime prevention and substance abuse prevention).

Ken Rigby

Ken Rigby is an Adjunct Research Professor and an educational consultant and has been based at the University of South Australia since 1969. He was educated in England where he obtained an honours degree in Economics (London University) and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Leicester University). Subsequently he worked as a teacher in schools in England and in Australia. He completed a PhD in Psychology at the University of Adelaide in 1977. Over the last ten years he has become a leading authority on bullying and peer victimisation. His most recent book is Children and bullying: How parents and educators can reduce bullying in schools published by Wiley 2008. See www.education.unisa.edu.au/bullying for further information.
Ross Homel AO

Ross Homel is Foundation Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia, and currently Director of the University’s Strategic Research Program for Social Change and Wellbeing, a virtual network of over 200 academic staff in the social and behavioural sciences. He has held senior research management positions within Griffith University since 1993 including as Director of the highly successful Australian Research Council Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance until October 2007. He was responsible for establishing a national set of research priorities to advance the wellbeing of children and young people and setting up a new Australian Research Council research network, while undertaking a half time role with the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth in 2003. Between 1994 and 1999 he was a part time Commissioner for the Queensland Criminal Justice Commission.

Professor Homel’s career focus is the theoretical analysis of crime and associated problems such as violence, child abuse, injury, substance abuse and corruption, and the prevention of these problems through the application of the scientific method to problem analysis and the development, implementation and evaluation of interventions. He is particularly interested in prevention projects implemented through community development methods at the local level and has designed and evaluated numerous community projects directed at the health and wellbeing of young people. He is also a chief investigator on numerous projects funded by the Australian Research Council, and other national and international funding bodies, mostly related to juvenile crime and crime prevention.

Don Weatherburn

Don Weatherburn is Director of the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research in Sydney. He is a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and an Adjunct Professor in the School of Social Science and Policy at the University of New South Wales. He has written on a wide range of topics, including sentencing; drug law enforcement; crime prevention, criminal justice administration; juvenile recidivism; child neglect and crime; unemployment and crime and Indigenous overrepresentation in prison.

Toni Makkai

Toni Makkai has recently joined the Australian National University as the Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences. She has had a career which has spanned both the academic and government sector having held the positions of Director of Research and Director at the Australian Institute of Criminology. As a result her work is focused on empirical research that seeks to inform policy development. Her major areas of interest include drugs and crime, crime statistics, drug courts, and regulation and compliance. She has published widely in these fields with over 50 peer reviewed journal articles, numerous chapters in books and government reports and monographs. She is a member of the editorial board of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology, is a member of the Australian National Council on Drugs, National Crime Stoppers Australia and the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance at Griffith University. Her most recent monograph, Regulating Aged Care (with John and Val Braithwaite), is a 25 year comparative study of regulatory control in Australia, the United States and England.
Speaker Profiles

Tony Keyes

Tony Keyes is the Executive Director, Law and Justice Policy in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Queensland Government). He has practised as a lawyer for the Central Land Council (Alice Springs), the Prisoners’ Legal Service and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (both in Brisbane), as well as in private practice. He worked in the former Criminal Justice Commission, the Queensland Ombudsman’s office and the Queensland Law Reform Commission, and taught at the Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University. He speaks smatterings of Chinese, German, Melanesian Pidgin and Pitjantjatjara. His eclectic extracurricular activities include sailing, aviation and going bush.

Elizabeth Fraser

Elizabeth Fraser is the Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian in Queensland having commenced this role on 17 January 2005.

Elizabeth has worked in different States, working at all levels of government and has also worked in five countries. Her areas of speciality include child protection, family services, community development, policy and program development, review and implementation, and organisational change and support.

Alan Davey

Alan Davey joined the Queensland Police Service in 1974 and has worked in a variety of fields including, General Duties, Criminal Investigation Branch, Juvenile Aid Bureau, lecturing at the academy, Undertaking Projects and Project Management. During March 2003 he was appointed Chief Superintendent (Operations Coordinator) for the South Eastern Police Region which includes the Gold Coast, Logan City and Beaudesert Shire, with a population in excess of some eight hundred thousand people.

In early 2007 he was promoted to Assistant Commissioner Ethical Standards Command and in April 2008 transferred to his current position as Assistant Commissioner, Operations Support Command. In 2006 he was awarded the ‘Australian Police Medal’ in recognition of his leadership skills and commitment to change within the QPS.