

MEDIA RELEASE

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Family crime focus of law enforcement symposium

Tasmanian families who commit crimes down through the generations will be a focus of a two-day policing symposium at the University of Tasmania.

The symposium begins tomorrow (Wednesday 13 August) and is being held by the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies (TILES).

About 40 representatives from Tasmania Police and State Government departments such as Health and Human Services and Premier and Cabinet will attend, including the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Police, the Commissioner for Children and migrant community representatives.

The Director of TILES, Professor Robert Julian, said the symposium is the Institute's first presentation of post-graduate research to its law enforcement partners and the general community.

"The two main themes of the symposium reflect the academic expertise within the Institute: policing and policing practice, and immigration and refugee settlement," she said.

Research by post-doctoral fellow, Dr Vanessa Goodwin, is developing a profile of six Tasmanian families with a history of inter-generational offending. It builds on 1970s work on the concentration of offending in 16 multi-problem families.

"The study also involves collaborative work with the Australian Institute of Criminology to develop a methodology for calculating the costs of crime and related social problems for multi-problem families," Dr Goodwin said.

Other highlights of the symposium include papers on:

- Sexual assault reporting: factors faced by survivors making decisions about reporting to police, and management of sexual assault reports in Victoria;
- Policing intimate partner violence: city cops and country cops;
- Risk assessment tools used to predict violent recidivism;
- Police / refugee relations, African youth settlement in Tasmania and settlement and secondary migration of the Tasmanian Hmong;
- The direction of future alcohol policy in Australia;
- Pathways into policing – a gendered experience?

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