



## DR CLIVE BEGG

**Clive Begg BA PhD (UQ)** is the Executive Director of ACRO, the Australian Community Safety & Research Organisation Incorporated, Australia's principal non-government practitioner organisation dealing with criminal and social justice issues. He is also an Adjunct Lecturer within the School of Social Sciences, The University of Queensland and a Consultant to the Behavioural and Social Sciences Ethical Review Committee at the same University. At various times he has acted as State President of the Australian Crime Prevention Council, the Past National President of this Council and is a founding member of the Victims of Crime Association of Queensland.

Acting from within the community sector, he was a principal advocate for penal reform in Queensland during the 1980's and successfully agitated for the closure of the notorious "Black Hole" Detention Unit at Boggo Road Prison, the dismantling of the infamous "Special Squad", and significantly contributed to a major Review into prisons, particularly in the development of community based and managed corrections options for currently serving prisoners. He acted as the State's first community representative of the Home Detention Scheme (1986); was the first Official Visitor appointed to investigate prisoner grievances under the Corrective Services Act (1988-1994); and has acted as a Deputy Inspector of a Ministerial Review. In 1994 he was appointed an Inspector under the Corrective Services Act (and remains an approved person for the purpose), a position which purpose is to enquire into any matter within the Correctional System, under instruction of the Queensland Government. In 1996 he was an official delegate to the Fourth Commonwealth Correctional Administrators Conference.

In 1992 he was jointly funded by ACRO and the Queensland Government to undertake an overseas Study Tour to investigate corrections and crime prevention initiatives in the UK, Canada, the United States of America and Europe. As a consequence of his investigations he vigorously, and successfully, campaigned for a National Strategy on Crime Prevention in Australia. His subsequent drafting of "Safer Australia" in 1995 led to the implementation of his strategy by the National Government (this was later renamed *National Crime Prevention*).

He has advised all levels of government in Australia and several jurisdictions offshore on proactive responses to social and criminal justice issues. His work was instrumental in the adoption of the *Crime Prevention Partnership (CPP)*, a unique holistic crime prevention strategy, in Queensland. He has also orchestrated National campaigns against youth suicide, racism and elder abuse. He has a high media profile and is viewed as a credible "voice of reason" on important social debates.

At the invitation of the Australian Government he was an Australian delegate to the 9th. United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders in Cairo, Egypt during May 1995 and contributed significantly at the "Towards World Change" Conference held in Vancouver, Canada in 1996. His work is respected both within Australia and internationally.

Dr. Begg has lectured throughout Australia, his views have been published widely and he has convened significant Conferences in the field of community safety. Dr. Begg was a speaker at the International Conference for Crime Prevention Partnerships Conference in Johannesburg South Africa in October 1998 on the subject of the politics of crime prevention and addressed the 10<sup>th</sup>. United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders as an "individual expert" in Vienna during April 2000. He is attending the International Sociological Association Conference in Durban, South Africa in July 2006 and will be addressing the 101<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the American Sociological Association in Montreal during August 2006.

In 1994 he undertook the first of a series of Crime Surveys (further refined and conducted in 1996, 1997 and 1998) on community perceptions and attitudes towards community safety and social justice. The results of these Surveys have been used as a tool for defining issues of concern for citizens at a local level for response by locally constituted Partnerships, resourced by all levels of government. Dr. Begg has assisted local people throughout Australia to forge meaningful partnerships to fight crime involving government, the business sector and community.

In his doctoral thesis published in 2002, **The 'third way' in practice: Inclusion at a cost** [<http://adt.library.uq.edu.au/public/adt-QU20030422.111511/index.html>], Dr Begg examined the disparateness of opinion over the philosophy of the political system known as the 'third way' and tested the contentious issue of whether its implementation validated assertions that it either increased, or decreased, democracy and civic engagement. In a world first Begg established the apparent primary intent of the 'third way' as the maintenance of government (the "political imperative") at all costs with a conservative normative agenda (the "moral imperative") to direct this process, concluding that traditional forms of social critique find no home in the 'third way' – a matter of grave concern to social justice advocates.

Ivan Szélényi (William Graham Sumner Professor of Sociology, Yale University) recommended that Begg's thesis "makes some substantial contributions to knowledge" suggesting further that the thesis "helps us to think (about the third way) in new, deeper, theoretically more sophisticated ways" stating that it "casts the politics of the third way more broadly and theoretically more ambitiously than any other work that I am familiar with". He notes that the thesis deals "well with .. economic issues, but moves beyond it" suggesting that the "analysis of the re-conceptualization of inequality and poverty as 'exclusion' and 'inclusion' is rather wonderfully executed" (Szélényi 2002: unpublished correspondence). Dr Begg is currently recrafting his thesis for mainstream publication.

Dr Begg is 52, married with two children and lives in Brisbane, Australia. His partner, Fiona, is a leading educationalist in the field of youth crime prevention; his daughter, Danielle, an Honours graduate in Psychology from the University of Queensland, (as well as the 2002 Young Queenslander of the Year and Centenary Medal winner for services to social justice) is working with the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in Canberra; whilst his son, Adrian (studying Engineering at the University of Queensland), has been involved in debate on important youth issues since the age of 13.