

Title: Managing arson offenders – what do we know already and what do we need to know?

Abstract: With heightened community focus on the issue of arson prevention and management in our community, work has commenced on developing a best practice approach to managing convicted arson offenders. Currently in Australia there is no standardised treatment modality designed specifically to address the unique demands of intervention with adult deliberate firesetters. This paper will present the results of a preliminary review into current best practice for risk assessment of arson offenders. Issues pertaining to treatment goals will also be canvassed. In Australia, currently there is no consistent approach to the assessment and intervention of either juvenile or adult arsonists. Reference to advances in the international arena will be made and the applicability of the lessons learned overseas to the domestic context will be examined.