

research and conservation services.

The agreement follows amendments to legislation this month giving the West Australian Government's department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) rights to use the State's plants in commercial deals.

The legislation was opposed by the Conservation Council of Western Australia, which said drug companies could be sold exclusive rights to entire species.

"The legislation is improper and unethical," said the council's vice-president, Mr Peter Robertson.

"Privatisation of the State's natural heritage is criminal."

But Dr Jim Armstrong, a director of CALM, said: "This is really quite a remarkable deal. We're looking at a whole new way biodiversity is valued and maintained - they are going to be protected because they're worth something."

The smoke bush, or *Conospermum*, could form the basis of an export industry to challenge grain growing if conocurvone, a compound from the plant, proves effective against AIDS.

So far it has only done so in test tube trials, but clinical trials should be under way within three years following the agreement to harvest and process the plant.

But Dr Armstrong, who heads a team of 30 CALM scientists developing conocurvone, warned: "These are very early days. At any stage the project could fall over."

If the drug works, he said annual royalties could be worth "hundreds of millions".

Amrad is licensed by the US National Cancer Institute to develop conocurvone.

The smoke bush's special properties were discovered by Americans four years ago, eight years after the institute started investigating the world's animal and plant life for a cancer cure.

Dr Armstrong explained: "This particular smoke bush is interesting. Others killed AIDS cells but were toxic. This one has low toxicity."

Amrad's general manager, Mr Barry Moore, said the plant had to be gathered in the wild and extracts taken from the roots.

If the toxicology tests are successful, clinical trials will follow in Australia and in Europe and the US because there aren't enough AIDS patients in this country for extensive research.

Eventually the plant, which is not rare and grows south-west of a line from Shark Bay on the Indian Ocean to the Southern Ocean port of Esperance, may be grown commercially.

Dr Armstrong said the plant was not used by Aboriginal people and was not eaten by stock.

## Woman, man found dead

The South Australian Coroner will be asked to rule on the fate of an Adelaide man and woman who were found dead within 24 hours of each other, possibly as a result of a murder-suicide.

The body of Ms Catherine Adaire, 46, was found on Sunday in the Onkaparinga River near the Adelaide Hills town of Balhannah.

Police found the body of a man inside a car at Virginia, north of Adelaide, yesterday. It was believed to be that of Mr Keith Butterworth, 49, a real estate agent and former acquaintance of Ms Adaire. The pair were described as once having a social relationship.

The cause of the deaths was not revealed late yesterday. Post-mortem examinations were under way.

A police spokesman said it was now for the coroner to determine how the two people died.



Mr Quinton with Ms Langley at home yesterday. Police believe thieves chose Mr Quinton because of his age and inability to fight back. Picture by ANDREW TAYLOR

# Thugs beat ex-AC/DC manager to death

By MARK RILEY  
Chief Police Reporter

Crispin Dye's solo musical career was beginning to take off.

After 15 years of travelling the world managing bands such as AC/DC and Rose Tattoo, the 41-year-old songwriter had finally decided to strike out on his own using the stage name Crisp Kemp.

He was celebrating the success of his first CD, *A Heart Like Mine*, with friends in Sydney on the night of December 23 when his fledgling career was cut short.

About 4.30 the following morning, Mr Dye, 41, was brutally bashed and robbed by three youths in Little Oxford Street, near Taylor Square. He suffered serious head injuries and died in hospital two days later - Christmas Day.

A witness told police he saw three teenagers standing over Mr Dye and rifling through his wallet as he lay bleeding in the dark laneway.

The wallet is still missing and is the main clue for detectives in their search for Mr Dye's murderers.

The musician's mother, Mrs Jean Dye, said last night that her family was having difficulty coming to terms with the death.

"Cris was such a quiet and very talented man," she said. "He was just the opposite of a violent person. He was so laid back. Music was his life. He always said he couldn't live without music."

Mrs Dye said she would cherish the memories of her son's musical successes, including the seven years in which he helped AC/DC become one of the world's biggest rock bands.

A gold record he got for his work



Murder victim Crispin Dye, left, with AC/DC guitarist Malcolm Young during Mr Dye's days of managing the band.

on the band's 1985 album, *Fly On The Wall*, still hangs in the lounge room of his winter home in Cairns.

He had also worked with the former Easybeats and famed Australian songwriters Harry Vanda and George Young, and with such artists as Jon English, Doug Ashdown and Margaret Roadknight.

Although mostly connected with heavy rock bands as a manager for the Albert record company, Mr Dye's real musical passion was in love songs. An accomplished pianist and guitarist, he had written a number of songs for artists such as Simon Gallagher before recording his own work on *A Heart Like Mine*.

The album had begun to figure on the easy listening charts in recent weeks after receiving widespread radio airplay.

Mrs Dye said last night that she had last spoken to her son when he rang home about 6.30 the night before the bashing to tell her he was going to spend the night on the town with friends. Mr Dye had

Mr Quinton happened to the elderly not to keep large amounts of money and jewellery at home and to take safety precautions to protect themselves against similar attacks.

Mr Quinton told the *Herald* he was attacked by two men armed with what appeared to be a large fishing knife.

He said one of the bandits held the knife to his throat and demanded money while the second offender, wearing gloves, ransacked the single-storey home in Berna Street.

"They said there was four of them and that they had 'trussed up' Marion and she had said I had \$30,000 in the house," Mr Quinton said.

"The one with the knife told me they wanted the money and I said I didn't have that much."

"I tried to put up a struggle but I didn't have the strength and

**"I tried to put up a struggle but I didn't have the strength."**

they put masking tape on my arms and tried to tie my hands. They told me to be quiet and I'd be all right."

Mr Quinton said he was asleep in his bedroom, at the back of the house, when he heard the window next to his bed being moved.

He said he thought Ms Langley, who sleeps in a second bedroom close to the front door, had come in to close the window because of the cold.

The bandits had unplugged a bedside light before one of the men ransacked the house.

Mr Quinton said he eventually gave the men \$4,000 in cash from a drawer next to his bed because he feared they would harm Ms Langley, who suffers from Addison's disease - a debilitating illness caused by inability to produce sufficient adrenalin.

"They said they would leave one man behind to make sure we kept quiet and they wanted five minutes to get away. I didn't believe them but they said they would be coming back," he said.

"I didn't have my [artificial] leg on but after they left I crawled out to Marion's room. She was still asleep and had slept through the whole thing. They hadn't touched her."

"I then crawled to the phone and called the police."

Detectives believe the bandits picked Mr Quinton because of his age and his inability to fight back.

"I've been through the Depression, fought in Burma during the [Second World] War and was a prisoner of war for three years and seven months working on the Burma Railway," Mr Quinton said.

"I had my right leg amputated there because of tropical ulcers. I came back and my wife died a couple of years later ... and I raised my two daughters alone."

"When you're old and not as strong as you once were, it hurts your pride to have this happen."

"I just hope the publicity warns other people about what can happen."

A 63-year-old man was robbed in his Bondi home by two men armed with a pistol and a baseball bat two weeks ago and a 68-year-old man was thrown through a window at his Hunters Hill unit during a robbery by two men four weeks ago.

Mr Bill O'Connor, 88, died last month after he was beaten by two men with his walking stick and a golf club in his Alexandria home.

A 59-year-old woman, Mrs Betty Woolley, died after she suffered head injuries during an attack at her Redfern unit three months ago and Mr Reg Pearson, 72, was found dead in his Newtown flat, October after suffering injuries during a robbery.