The future of NIFS – implications for Australia and New Zealand

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National Institute of Forensic Science

Co-ordination
Innovation
Education & Training
Quality
Information Exchange
History of NIFS

1974
Committee of Enquiry Recommended Creation of a National Forensic Institute

1991
NIFS Established

1992
Inaugural Director of NIFS Appointed

1994
Best Paper Awards Established

2002
First Ian Riebeling New Practitioner Workshop Delivered

2008
NIFS Joins ANZPAA

2009
NIFS Led Forensic Standards Committee Created Under Standards Australia

2010
John Harber Phillips Award Launched

2013
NIFS Independent Review Commenced

2015
New Operating Framework and Governance Approved

2016
NIFS Service Level Agreement Signed By 17 Agencies, Including New Zealand

2011
End to End Project Report Released

2015
Australia New Zealand Forensic Executive Committee (ANZFEC) Established

2016
NIFS Formally Becomes The National Institute of Forensic Science Australia New Zealand
NIFS Independent Review

2013 - Review Initiated

• ANZPAA Board initiated an Independent Review of ANZPAA NIFS
• The Honourable Frank Vincent AO QC was engaged to undertake the Review

2014 – Key Recommendations

• NIFS role should remain essentially the same
• Establishment of new governance body representative of wider forensic community
• Explore new funding arrangements
• Should remain part of ANZPAA until it becomes possible to establish NIFS as a standalone, independent entity
NIFS Operational Framework

- **ROLES**
- **PROGRAMS**
- **PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES**
- **PROJECT/ACTIVITY BUDGET**
- **BUSINESS PLAN**
- **PROGRAM BUDGET**
- **STRATEGIC PLAN**
- **STAKEHOLDER INPUT**

ANZPAA BOARD

ANZFEC

PREFORMANCE REPORTING

3 YEAR ROLLING

ANNUAL
ANZFEC Members
Strategic Intent

Promote and Facilitate Excellence in Forensic Science
NIFS Timeline

Foundation Phase

- **Independant Review**
- **Framework Implementation**
- **Review Landscape**
- **Innovation**
- **Prioritised Roadmap**
- **Investment**

Previous State

Now

Future State
NIFS Program Structure

**OUR ROLES**

**CO-ORDINATION:**
builds jurisdictional and cross-jurisdictional capability through protocols, products and enhanced implementation support.

**INNOVATION:**
contributes to a creative and innovative forensic science body of knowledge.

**INFORMATION MANAGEMENT:**
promotes and facilitates information-sharing and cross-jurisdictional dialogue and events.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING:**
maximises opportunities for forensic science skills and knowledge development.

**QUALITY:**
Delivers quality assurance programs, develops standards and manages practitioner certification program.

**OUR PROGRAMS**

- Operational Capability Program
- Operational Effectiveness Program
- R&I Strategy Program
- Capability Development Program
- Engagement & Recognition Program
- Specialist Advice Program
- Education and Training Program
- Certification Program
- Proficiency Testing Program
- Standards Program
NIFS Ongoing Activities

Co-ordination

Information Management

Quality

Innovation

Education & Training
NIFS On Going Activities

ANZFEC
17

DNA Consumables Negotiations
Up to 40% Discount

Drug Referencing Collection
$70,000 Budget

ANZPAA
Australia New Zealand Police Advisory Agency

DVI

CWALN
Criminal瓦尔纳特 ACT
Laboratory Network

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NIFS On Going Activities

- 9 SAG Meetings Facilitated
- 781 Secure Server Documents
- 40+ Website Visitors from 40+ Countries
- 700 Average Monthly Website Visitors
- 781 Secure Server Documents
- 4 Newsletters Distributed Annually
- 4 Newsletters Distributed Annually
- Forensic Resource Register

Information Management
NIFS On Going Activities

- **361** AFFSAB Re-Certifications
- **331 CTS** Proficiency Testing Program
- **$84K Saving**
- **52 FTS**
- **246** After The Fact Crime Scene Proficiency Tests
- **361** Forensic Science Standards Meetings
- **$84K Saving**
On Going Activities

- 6 ANZPAA NIFS Best Paper Awards
- Providing Guidance On Current & Emerging Research & Innovation
- Innovation

- 17 SAG Meetings Facilitated
- 781 Countries
- 40 Secure Server Documents
- 361 AFFSAB Re-Certifications
- 331 Forensic Science Standards Meetings
- 246 NATA CTS
- 52 FTS
- $84K Saving
- $70,000 Budget
- 40 Average Monthly Website Visitors
- 700 + Countries
- Forensic Resource Register
- Newsletters Distributed Annually
- Quality After The Fact Crime Scene Proficiency Tests
- Innovation

Providing Guidance On Current & Emerging Research & Innovation
NIFS On Going Activities

Fingerprints
Shoemarks
Damage
DNA
Ballistics
Handwriting

Forensic Science Workshops

Education & Training

Ian Riebeling
New Practitioners Workshop
NIFS Ongoing Activities

**Co-ordination**
- ANZFEC
- CWALN
- DNA Consumables Negotiations
- ACIC
- DVI
- Drug Referencing Collection

**Information Management**
- SAGs
- Secure Server
- Resource Register
- Website
- Newsletter

**Quality**
- AFSSAB Re-Certifications
- After The Fact
- Standards Meetings
- Proficiency Testing

**Innovation**
- John Harber Phillips Award
- International Conferences
- Best Paper Awards

**Education & Training**
- Ian Riebeling New Practitioners Workshop
- Forensic Science Workshops

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND**

**NIFS**
NIFS Project Activities

Co-ordination

Innovation

Quality
NIFS Project Activities

- Forensic Fundamentals
- National DNA Familial Searching Policy
- Error Rates
- End-to-End Phase 2
- Evaluative Reporting
- Expert Testimony Court Requirements
- Co-ordination
NIFS Project Activities

Providing a robust mechanism for forensic practitioner certification
NIFS Project Activities

Co-ordination:
- Forensic Fundamentals
- Evaluative Reporting
- Co-ordination
- DNA Familial Policy
- Error Rates
- End-to-End Phase 2
- Expert Testimony Req

Innovation:
- End-to-End Phase 2
- R&I Strategy & Roadmap
- Forensic Science Summit
- ANZFSS Symposium Sponsorship

Quality:
- AFFSAB Future Directions

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

Providing a robust mechanism for forensic practitioner certification

Future Directions
NIFS Investment in Research & Innovation
R&I Strategy: Key Objectives

1. Provide a mechanism to assist in improving forensic science R&I
2. Provide guidance to focus research
3. Provide guidance to meet end user requirements
4. Improve efficiency and value of forensic science
5. Develop research culture within providers
6. Enhance partnerships (national and international)
New Forensic Landscape
A New Forensic Landscape

ANZPAA Board

SMANZFL

ANZFEC

ACIC

ANZFSS

AAFS

ADVIC

SAGs

CWALN

AFFSAB

QMF

NATA

International Networks

Standards Australia

Academia
What Does This Mean?

Greater Involvement in Forensic Science

Clearer Reporting & Governance

Greater Ability to Leverage Funds

Streamlined Project Approvals

Greater Responsiveness

Targeted Investment
Revised Organisational Relationships

ANZFEC

ACIC
Information Systems
Database Intelligence

NATA
Accreditation

Service Providers
Knowledge Enabling & Technology Tracker

Strategic Advice & Governance

E&T – R&I
Academia
Capacity

Scientific & Technical
SAGs
Advice