OUR STRATEGIC INTENT
PROMOTE AND FACILITATE EXCELLENCE IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

The National Institute of Forensic Science is a directorate within the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA)

ANZPAA VISION
Driving excellence in Australian and New Zealand Policing

ANZPAA MISSION
ANZPAA will work in partnership to develop, promote and share strategic policing initiatives that enhance community safety in Australia and New Zealand

Acknowledgements
ANZPAA acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are Australia’s first peoples and the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we work. ANZPAA is committed to fulfilling the principles of New Zealand’s founding document The Treaty of Waitangi (Tiriti o Waitangi). Central to the principles is a common understanding that all parties will relate and participate with each other in good faith with mutual respect, co-operation and trust.

This Annual Report is the direct result of the hard work and collaboration of the ANZPAA NIFS and ANZPAA teams and the generous forensic stakeholders who provided important input and feedback.
WELCOME

On behalf of the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency National Institute of Forensic Science (ANZPAA NIFS) and the Australia New Zealand Forensic Executive Committee (ANZFEC), we are proud to release the ANZPAA NIFS Annual Report 2016-2017.

This Annual Report is the first report stemming from the new strategic direction, detailed in the ANZPAA NIFS Strategic Plan 2016-2019. This Annual Report highlights our achievements against measurable indicators, in key priority areas, identified in the ANZPAA NIFS Business Plan 2016-2017.

Our plan was ambitious, but working collaboratively with our stakeholders in the broad sectors of forensic science we have delivered on a robust work program. Through strong engagement, we have targeted resources and investment, in co-operation with our partner agencies, to deliver products such as the Research and Innovation Roadmap, An Introductory Guide to Evaluative Reporting and A Guideline to Forensic Fundamentals. In partnership with the Australian Federal Police and the Senior Managers of Australian and New Zealand Forensic Laboratories, we facilitated the Forensic Science Summit 2016. The Summit considered the challenges facing forensic science from now until 2030 and possible solutions to address them.

We have increased our visibility and transparency through the introduction of quarterly reports that have developed and strengthened our trusted relationships with our key stakeholders. ANZFEC membership has grown to include all government forensic science service providers of Australia and New Zealand.

Additionally, the ANZPAA NIFS team has strengthened to a full complement in an energetic and dynamic environment. We look forward to continuing the work of ANZPAA NIFS, in this, its 25th year of promoting and facilitating excellence in forensic science.

Katherine Van Gurp
Chief Executive Officer, ANZPAA

Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM
Director, ANZPAA NIFS
ANZPAA NIFS
at a glance

The Peak Body for Forensic Science in Australia and New Zealand

We were founded in 1992 and are an internationally respected agency, with no other counterpart in any other country.

We maintain strong strategic partnerships with policing agencies, standards agencies, accreditation organisations, academia, the judiciary and the international forensic community.

We are governed by the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) Board and the Australia New Zealand Forensic Executive Committee (ANZFEC).

Our member agencies are the government forensic science service providers in Australia and New Zealand.

Our work programs are designed to address priority needs and issues in forensic science to assist police in solving crime.

Publications
GOVERNANCE & ROLES

ANZPAA BOARD

ANZPAA
Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency

ANZFEC

Quality
Delivering quality assurance programs, developing standards and managing the practitioner certification program

Innovation
 Contributing to a creative and innovative forensic science body of knowledge

Co-ordination
Building jurisdictional and cross-jurisdictional capability through protocols, products and enhanced implementation support

Information Management
Promoting and facilitating information sharing and cross-jurisdictional dialogue and events

Education and Training
Facilitating training programs in forensic science skills and knowledge development
CO-ORDINATION

Operational Capability Program
Supporting and strengthening current forensic science services
Maximising opportunities for engagement with stakeholders

Underpinning Science Requirements
Identified and prioritised underpinning science requirements for a number of human based comparative disciplines and incorporated these into the Research and Innovation Roadmap

Proficiency Test Results
The Analysis of Australian Proficiency Tests Over a Ten Year Period accepted for publication

Forensic Fundamentals
A Guideline to Forensic Fundamentals developed and released with positive feedback received from national and international stakeholders

Facilitating and supporting forensic capability groups
Co-ordinated meetings of the ANZPAA Disaster Victim Identification Committee (ADVIC) to facilitate capacity building and education and training initiatives
Facilitated meetings of the Chemical Warfare Agent Laboratory Network (CWALN) and provided guidance on the implementation of a new structure and operating framework

Minimising the impact of emerging risks in forensic science
Specialist Advisory Group (SAG) documents related to expert testimony requirements collated and made available to the forensic science community
Informing forensic science policy development

The National Policy for Cross-Jurisdictional Familial DNA Searching for the Investigation of Crime in Australia was developed and approved by the ANZPAA Board. A copy was provided to ANZFEC members, the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) and members of the Biology Specialist Advisory Group (BSAG).

Co-ordinating procurement options to realise savings to forensic service agencies

Facilitated centralised access to drug reference standards resulting in significant cost saving for forensic science agencies

New pricing schedule implemented for DNA analysis consumables on behalf of forensic science agencies

Operational Effectiveness Program

Improving the way forensic science services are delivered

Facilitating and co-ordinating Australian and New Zealand forensic science projects

Evaluative Reporting

An Introductory Guide to Evaluative Reporting developed to promote, standardise and improve evaluative reporting practices in Australia and New Zealand

End-to-End

End-to-End paper examining the forensic process from the report of the crime through to the arrest of the offender prepared for publication

Interfaces

Interfaces paper identifying communication patterns between medicine, science, law enforcement and law in the context of homicide and sexual assault investigations submitted for publication
INNOVATION

Research and Innovation Strategy Program
Driving strategic research and innovation forward planning

Reviewing and providing guidance on current and emerging research, technology and innovation

Presented at the Military Forensic and Exploitation Symposium hosted by the Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) in Canberra, February 2017, to assist in informing the development of an Australian Defence Organisation Forensic Research Strategy

Joint organisers with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Senior Managers of Australian and New Zealand Forensic Laboratories (SMANZFL) of the Australasian Forensic Science Summit held in Canberra, December 2016, that developed recommendations for progressing forensic science toward 2030

Sponsored the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS) 23rd International Symposium held in Auckland, New Zealand, September 2016

Developing a strategic approach to investment in research, development and innovation

Current status report on Forensic Science Research and Innovation initiatives in Australia and New Zealand published

Research and Innovation Strategy developed to provide a mechanism for funding externally managed Research and Innovation projects

Prioritised Roadmap for ANZPAA NIFS Research and Innovation investment developed for forensic science community

Report on Current and Emerging Issues in Forensic Science Service Provision published
Engagement and Recognition Program
Encouraging and recognising forensic science excellence

Recognising and promoting excellence in forensic science
Mr Alastair Ross AM was the recipient of the prestigious 2016 John Harber Phillips Award

"The Award recognises Mr Ross’ long service to the profession, in particular, his role at ANZPAA NIFS. ANZPAA NIFS was a vehicle to galvanise the New Zealand and Australian forensic science community, particularly at the practitioner level. This had an impact on the establishment of national training programs and a common approach to practices, such as testing methods used in forensic science laboratories." Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde, Director, ANZPAA NIFS

Recognising and promoting research in forensic science

- **Best Paper in a Refereed Journal**
  Direct identification of forensic body fluids using matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry
  - Sathisha Kamanna, Julianne Henry, Nicholas Voelcker, Adrian Linacre and Paul Kirkbride

- **Best Literature Review**
  Forensic body fluid identification: state of the art
  - Sally Ann Harbison and Rachel Fleming

- **Best Technical Article or Note**
  An alternative approach for assessment of liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry matrix effects using auto-sampler programmed co-injection
  - Caitlyn Rogers, Peter Stockham, Christine Nash, Sheridan Martin, Chris Kostakis and Claire Lenehan

- **Best Chapter in a Book**
  Encyclopedia of Forensic and Legal Medicine, Volume 4. Postmortem changes: overview
  - Michael Tsokos and Roger Byard

- **Best Case Study**
  Locard’s principle of exchange, dental examination and fragments of skin
  - Roger Byard, Helen James, John Berketa and Karen Heath

Capability Development Program
Enhancing the way we assess, adopt and implement new forensic science tools

- Facilitating the extension and operationalisation of new technology and innovations
  Watching brief on massively parallel sequencing released

- Assessing new and emerging technology and innovations
  Report on outcomes of Rapid DNA project submitted for publication
OUR YEAR IN PICTURES
ANZPAA NIFS
Best Paper Award Recipients
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Specialist Advice Program
Maximising the exchange of forensic science information and enhancing communication

Maximising opportunities to gather forensic science information

9 Specialist Advisory Group meetings facilitated to leverage specialist knowledge between agencies and provide opportunities for collaboration and sharing of resources

Providing opportunities to share and store forensic science information

ANZPAA NIFS Secure Server

+21% Increase in number of forensic science user accounts

+39% Increase in number of forensic science documents

www.anzpaa.org.au/nifs

40+ Visitors from over 40+ countries per month

1,221 Average monthly website visitors
Facilitating specialised forensic science workshops

9 Workshops facilitated to increase training opportunities for forensic science practitioners

Facilitated the Ian Riebeling New Practitioner Workshop in Auckland

The workshop comprised of 17 participants including students and new practitioners from across Australia and New Zealand as well as 14 presenters with a broad range of forensic expertise

Ian Riebeling Workshop Feedback

“The mock court was a real eye opener in how the expert witness should present themselves. The range of speakers was fantastic and I learned a lot from them. Keep up the great work”
QUALITY

Certification Program
Promoting and delivering certification of forensic science experts

Providing a robust mechanism for forensic science practitioner certification

Australasian Forensic Field Sciences Accreditation Board (AFFSAB) re-certifications processed

- Scanning paper on the future direction of AFFSAB completed
- Facilitated the AFFSAB Board meeting in June 2017

AFFSAB is committed to enhancing professionalism for forensic field examiners and promoting confidence in the forensic sciences throughout Australia

Proficiency Testing Program
Ensuring the production and delivery of the proficiency testing programs

Developing and co-ordinating a quality proficiency test for crime scene examination 269 AtF tests facilitated

Facilitated the development and release of the 2016 After the Fact (AtF) test

AtF is an interactive, virtual reality software program designed for crime scene investigation proficiency testing within a quality management framework

Maximising the leverage in purchasing power for proficiency tests $70K+ in savings to forensic agencies through the co-ordinated purchasing of proficiency tests
Standards Program
Leading the development and supporting the application of forensic science standards

Participating in the development of and promoting the application of forensic science standards

4 Standards Australia forensic science related committee meetings participated in for CH041 (Forensic Analysis - Recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of material) and CH039 (Procedures for specimen collection and the detection and quantitation of drugs in oral fluids)

2 International Organization for Standardization Committee ISO TC272 Forensic Sciences meetings chaired in Toronto, Canada and Madrid, Spain, with the following Standards progressing to the Draft International Standard (DIS) phase:

- ISO DIS 21043-1 Forensic Sciences - Terms, definitions and framework
- ISO DIS 21043-2 Forensic Sciences - Recognition, recording, recovering, transport and storage of items

Participated in the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) Forensic Science Accreditation Advisory Committee (FSAAC) to provide advice on the application of the ISO 17025 standard for NATA accreditation in the field of forensic science