

## Principles for the Application of Forensic/Investigative Genetic Genealogy

### Purpose:

These Principles provide high-level, strategic guidance for jurisdictions in the development and application of policies and procedures related to Forensic/Investigative Genetic Genealogy (F/IGG).

### Definition:

F/IGG is a specialised field that combines more expansive DNA techniques and traditional genealogy to identify suspects and unknown remains, using commercial DNA databases to establish familial relationships of the unknown individual.

KEY PRINCIPLES			
REASONABLE USE		APPLICATION	
Due to the use of genetic data with publicly available commercial databases, F/IGG should be reserved for the investigation of serious crime, involving significant harm or posing a substantial threat to public safety, and for the resolution of unidentified human remains cases.		As a resource-intensive intelligence technique with implications for individual privacy, F/IGG should be considered once other investigative and forensic examinations have been reasonably exhausted.  The use of commercial databases for F/IGG-based investigations should cease if identity is established by other means.	
UNDERPINNING PRACTICES			
TRAINING	GOVERNANCE	BEST PRACTICE	TRUST & CONFIDENCE
Police and forensic agencies should:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensure high quality training is provided to staff to ensure competency and to promote continuous learning</li> <li>investigate a program of proficiency testing for in-house experts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>maintain a central register of use, issues and opportunities to promote continuous improvement and allow for transparent review</li> <li>conduct periodic internal reviews of relevant governance processes</li> <li>develop local processes for interstate and international requests for assistance with F/IGG cases</li> <li>provide guidance as to the reasonable assessment of compliance of an interstate or international request with these Principles.</li> <li>whether the capability is in-house or with external service providers, undertake due diligence around technical, legal and privacy compliance, including data management, ownership, disclosure, technical suitability, and competence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop best practice guidelines, standard terminology, reporting and operating models in consultation with the jurisdiction's representatives of relevant specialist cross-jurisdictional groups<sup>1</sup></li> <li>establish policies and practices with a focus on privacy and informed consent, and in consideration with local context</li> <li>promote and share research in the use of F/IGG and related technologies</li> <li>recognise that F/IGG is an evolving capability and regularly review established policy and process to ensure they are contemporary and fit-for-purpose.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>foster public trust and confidence in F/IGG through its transparent use</li> <li>adhere to the terms and conditions set by external service providers, and monitor and adapt to any changes, promoting ongoing co-operation</li> <li>work to develop a peer-reviewed process for actionable intelligence</li> </ul>
UNDERPINNING CONSIDERATIONS			
Police and forensic agencies should:			
consider any Australian and/or New Zealand obligations under international treaties when developing policies and practices that guide the application of F/IGG, including with respect to the death penalty.		consider any jurisdictional laws and policies when establishing practices that guide the application of F/IGG, including with respect to the identification of foetal remains.	

#### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> The Forensic/Investigative Genetic Genealogy Project Working Group (F/IGG) is an ANZPAA NIFS Group.