

ANZPAA National Institute of Forensic Science

BUSINESS PLAN 2018-19



ANZPAA
Australia New Zealand
Policing Advisory Agency



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 Australia and New Zealand Policing

ANZPAA MISSION

ANZPAA will proactively partner with agencies and identify opportunities for improved performance that result in better community safety outcomes 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 Business Plan 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.

DIRECTOR AND CHAIR'S 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 launch the ANZPAA NIFS Business Plan 2018 – 19 (the Plan).

The Plan represents the third year of ANZPAA NIFS under the new operating framework and builds upon the strong foundations and key strategic partnerships that we have established across all sectors of forensic science. The Plan aligns with the priorities set out in the ANZPAA NIFS Strategic Plan 2016-2019 that was endorsed by ANZFEC and approved by the ANZPAA Board, comprised of Australia and New Zealand Police Commissioners and the ACT Chief Police Officer.

This year's Plan will see the completion of the implementation of recommendations from the Reviews of the Australasian Forensic Field Sciences Accreditation Board and the ANZPAA NIFS Groups. It will also see continued work on forensic fundamentals, investigating the underpinning science of various forensic disciplines, and also work on emerging DNA technologies. Exciting new projects include the mapping of fingerprint and drug analysis processes to identify opportunities for improvements, developing guidelines for transitioning technology from the laboratory to the field and investigating peer review and double-blind proficiency testing.

We look forward to working with forensic stakeholders in the Australian, New Zealand and international communities to deliver this ambitious Plan.

Assistant Commissioner Peter Cotter
Chair, ANZFEC

Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM
Director, NIFS

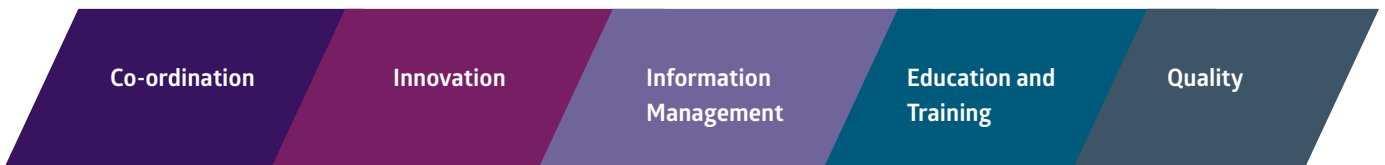
ABOUT US

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

We are governed by a planning and work program framework. This framework is underpinned by a three year Strategic Plan approved by the ANZPAA Board. The Australia New Zealand Forensic Executive Committee (ANZFEC), comprising representatives from the forensic service providers of our Australia and New Zealand funding agencies, has oversight of the delivery of the Strategic Plan via our annual Business Plan.

We have a wide range of stakeholders across policing agencies, health and justice agencies, and academic institutions. We also maintain strong strategic partnerships with standards agencies, accreditation organisations, common policing agencies, the judiciary and the international forensic community.

Our work priorities are aligned to the following ANZPAA NIFS roles:



Current ANZFEC member agencies:



CO-ORDINATION

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

Operational Capability Program

Supporting and strengthening current forensic science services

ONGOING ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Maximise opportunities for engagement with forensic science stakeholders · Facilitate the ANZPAA Disaster Victim Identification Committee (ADVIC) · Facilitate ADVIC capability group capacity building initiatives · Facilitate the Chemical Warfare Agent Laboratory Network (CWALN) capability group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Three ANZFEC meetings facilitated per year · Four quarterly reports on the ANZPAA NIFS work program distributed per year · Two national and/or one international meetings attended and contributions made · Two meetings with academia attended and contributions made · Annual ADVIC meeting facilitated and attended · ADVIC initiative to build capacity facilitated · CWALN meeting facilitated and attended
PROJECT ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Review and identify gaps in the status of underpinning science for selected forensic science disciplines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Review commenced for three forensic science disciplines

Operational Effectiveness Program

Improving the way forensic science services are delivered

PROJECT ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Complete a review of forensic science practitioner groups managed by ANZPAA NIFS · Commence a review of forensic science processes for Drugs Analysis and Fingerprint Analysis to identify best practice and opportunities for process improvements · Develop a guide for the management of complex crime scenes by co-ordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Recommendations regarding the future of ANZPAA NIFS Groups presented to ANZFEC and the ANZPAA Board · Project commenced to review forensic science processes in Drugs and Fingerprint Analysis · Guideline for the management of complex crime scenes by co-ordinators released

INNOVATION

Contributing to a creative and innovative forensic science body of knowledge

Research and Innovation Strategy Program

Driving strategic research and innovation forward planning

ONGOING ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Leverage off national and international conferences by contributing and bringing learnings back to forensic stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Learnings from one national and/or international conference returned to the Australia New Zealand forensic science community
PROJECT ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Co-ordinate the approval process for externally managed projects from the Research and Innovation Roadmap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Project submissions from external agencies managed, assessed, and reported to ANZFEC and the ANZPAA Board

Capability Development Program

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

PROJECT ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Conduct an assessment of the potential to use predictive DNA results in facial imaging comparison software systems · Develop a model for transitioning technology from the laboratory to the field · Identification of strategic considerations for the implementation of rapid DNA instruments, based on learnings from the 'Assessment of the Investigative Potential of Rapid DNA Instruments' project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Interpretation of predictive DNA results in facial imaging comparison software systems commenced · Model for transitioning technology from the laboratory to the field released · Strategic considerations for the implementation of rapid DNA instruments provided to ANZFEC and the ANZPAA Board members

Engagement and Recognition Program

Encouraging and recognising forensic science excellence

ONGOING ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Manage the ANZPAA NIFS Best Paper Awards which promote collaboration and engagement in research that is operationally relevant · Manage the John Harber Phillips Award which promotes and recognises excellence in forensic science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ANZPAA NIFS Best Paper Awards submissions are received, assessed and awards presented to the winners · John Harber Phillips Award submissions are received, assessed and award presented to the winner

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Facilitating information-sharing and cross-jurisdictional dialogue and events

Specialist Advice Program

Maximising the exchange of forensic science information and enhancing communication

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Facilitate ten Specialist Advisory Group (SAG) meetings to provide discipline specific technical advice and opportunities for capability development
- Maintain the ANZPAA NIFS Secure Server to exchange and share resources, learnings and information between agencies and disciplines
- Communicate and increase awareness of the activities of the Australia New Zealand forensic science community

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- All SAG meetings facilitated and held
- New accounts processed as required and ANZPAA NIFS Secure Server maintained and utilised by SAGs
- Four newsletters published annually
- ANZPAA NIFS public website maintained and updated
- ANZPAA NIFS Twitter account maintained and updated



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Facilitating training programs in forensic science skills and knowledge development

Education and Training Program

Identifying and delivering Australia and New Zealand forensic training needs

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Leverage resources in order to reduce costs to forensic science agencies for specialised training needs, and increase training opportunities for experts by providing funding and facilitation to ANZFEC approved workshops
- Facilitate the Ian Riebeling New Practitioner Workshop in conjunction with the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS) Symposium

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Approved forensic science workshops facilitated and held
- Ian Riebeling New Practitioner Workshop held prior to the ANZFSS Symposium



QUALITY

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

Certification Program

Promoting and delivering certification of forensic science experts

ONGOING ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the Australasian Forensic Field Sciences Accreditation Board (AFFSAB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual recertification of AFFSAB members completed AFFSAB annual Board meeting held and AFFSAB policy updated
PROJECT ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the recommendations from the AFFSAB Review to streamline and standardise the AFFSAB policy and processes document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved recommendations for changes to the AFFSAB process implemented Revised final AFFSAB Policy and Processes document completed, approved and communicated to stakeholders

Proficiency Testing Program

Ensuring the production and delivery of the proficiency test programs


ONGOING ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the development and running of the annual After the Fact (AtF) crime scene proficiency test Co-ordinate the procurement and distribution of agreed proficiency tests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018 AtF test developed and released 2018 AtF test results assessed and distributed to participating agencies Proficiency testing programs procured and distributed on an annual basis, realising cost savings to forensic science agencies
PROJECT ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence the development of a double blind proficiency testing model framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double blind proficiency testing model framework created and project proposal to pilot the framework prepared



Standards Program

Leading the development and supporting the application of forensic science standards

<p>ONGOING ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Participate in the development and review of Australian forensic related standards · Participate in the development of international forensic related standards on behalf of the Australian community · Participate and contribute to the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) Forensic Science Accreditation Advisory Committee (FSAAC) 	<p>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Relevant Standards Australia committee meetings attended and contributions to draft standards made · International Organization for Standardization TC272 meeting chaired and contributions to draft standards made · NATA FSAAC meetings attended and contributions made
<p>PROJECT ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Develop a model for a robust peer review process 	<p>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Model for peer review commenced

The background is an abstract composition of geometric shapes, primarily triangles and quadrilaterals, in various shades of purple, blue, and lavender. The shapes are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, with some areas appearing to recede and others to come forward.

Cover Image
- Forensic Scientists examining gun 2012
Cultura Creative (RF) / Alamy Stock Photo

Photos courtesy of:
- New South Wales Police Force
- Victoria Police

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