

**ANZPAA**  
Australia New Zealand  
Policing Advisory Agency



# NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

## Business Plan 2021-22

# Our Strategic Intent

To bring people together to address current and emerging forensic science priorities in support of a fair criminal justice system

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

## Our Purpose

We Position Policing for the Future

## Our Vision

The Leading Advisor on Current and Emerging Policing Priorities

## 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. Central to the principles is a common understanding that all parties will relate and participate with each other in good faith with mutual respect, cooperation 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.

# Foreword

Director  
and Chair

We are delighted to introduce the ANZPAA NIFS Business Plan for 2021-22. The plan continues the excellent work commenced under former NIFS Director Linzi Wilson-Wilde's leadership, as well as introduces exciting new projects that will help to address both current and emerging priorities for the forensic science community.

We are all aware of the recent risks and challenges facing forensic science globally, whether these relate to the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing service demands and cost pressures, or the public scrutiny around the perceived reliability of forensic science. We are confident this plan will position ANZPAA NIFS to continue creating the right connections that will guide the forensic science community through these challenges, as well as embrace any resulting opportunities.

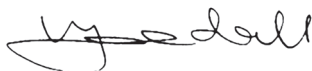
As the year progresses, the ANZPAA NIFS program of work will continue to be monitored in collaboration with our ANZFEC members and under the strategic guidance of the ANZPAA Board. This will ensure ANZPAA NIFS is delivering operationally relevant outcomes and has the right balance between strengthening foundational science and implementing new technologies.

Our many and highly valued specialist advisory, technical and project groups will help progress this year's program of work by continuing to identify opportunities for improvement, forecast emerging challenges, inform best practice, and support cooperation and standardisation wherever possible.

This plan will see ANZPAA NIFS continue work programs that contribute to embedding consistent quality standards across jurisdictions and increase the validity and reliability of forensic science. Through capability mapping, ANZPAA NIFS will deliver recommendations to our ANZFEC member agencies in support of maintaining a sustainable workforce that is agile and has the right skills to respond to new operating environments. This year we will develop a framework to negotiate standardised consumable prices to bring cost savings to ANZFEC member agencies. There will also be a focussed effort to progress collaboration across the forensic intelligence capability in support of broader law enforcement efforts to prevent and disrupt crime.

Driving these areas of focus from a cross-jurisdictional perspective and linking together the excellent work happening at a local level, ANZPAA NIFS will continue to support forensic science practitioners in enhancing practice, addressing risk, thinking strategically, and providing the most effective and efficient forensic science service possible to support police, the criminal justice system, victims of crime and the community.

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who continue to support ANZPAA NIFS, as well as thank the dedicated and talented ANZPAA NIFS team for their ongoing commitment to driving the activities and projects under this plan.



**Vanessa Goodall**  
Director, ANZPAA-NIFS



**Gavin Turbett**  
Chair, ANZFEC

# 01

## CO-ORDINATION

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Builds current jurisdictional and cross-jurisdictional operational capability and effectiveness through protocols, products and enhanced implementation support.

### Ongoing activities

- Maximise opportunities for engagement with forensic science stakeholders.
- Facilitate the ANZPAA Disaster Victim Identification Committee (ADVIC).
- Co-ordinate the Engender Change program to promote diversity and inclusion in the forensic community through leadership.
- Co-ordinate the annual negotiation for DNA analysis consumables on behalf of forensic science laboratories.

### Project activities

- Review and identify gaps in the status of underpinning science for selected forensic science disciplines.
- Explore feasibility of standardised pricing arrangements for high throughput forensic consumables.
- Develop a framework to determine emerging risks and future capability requirements.
- Review the National Familial DNA Searching Policy.
- Build Chemical Criminalistics Activity Level Reporting capability by negotiating a tailored course for stakeholders.

# 02

## INNOVATION

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Contributes to a creative and innovative forensic science body of knowledge and enhances the way we assess, adopt and implement new forensic capabilities and tools.

### Ongoing activities

- Leverage off national and international conferences by contributing and bringing learnings back to forensic stakeholders.
- Manage the ANZPAA NIFS Best Paper Awards, which promotes collaboration and engagement in research that is operationally relevant.
- Manage the John Harber Phillips Award, which promotes and recognises excellence in forensic science.

### Project activities

- Provide forecasting advice on new technology and innovation affecting forensic science.



# 03

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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Promotes and facilitates information-sharing and cross-jurisdictional dialogue and events.

### Ongoing activities

- Facilitate approved Specialist Advisory Group (SAG) meetings to provide discipline specific technical advice and opportunities for capability development.
- Facilitate the Chemical Warfare Agent Laboratory Network (CWALN) capability group.
- 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.

# 04

# 04

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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Maximises opportunities for forensic science skills and knowledge development.

### 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 held in conjunction with the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS) Symposium.

### Project activities

- Review forensic ANZPAA Education and Training Guidelines and associated Qualifications.

## QUALITY

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Delivers quality assurance programs, develops standards and manages the practitioner certification program.

### Ongoing activities

- Manage the Australasian Forensic Science Assessment Body (AFSAB).
- Facilitate the development and running of the After the Fact (AtF) crime scene proficiency test.
- Co-ordinate the procurement and distribution of agreed proficiency tests.
- Support the development of Australian and international forensic related standards to ensure consistent and reliable forensic science services.
- Participate and contribute to the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) Forensic Science Accreditation Advisory Committee (FSAAC).

### Project activities

- Explore the commercialisation of the AtF proficiency test.
- Enhance the AFSAB assessments.

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## Governance and Networks

ANZPAA NIFS is governed by the Australia New Zealand Forensic Executive Committee (ANZFEC), which comprises the heads of 18 government and police forensic service providers in Australia and New Zealand, with oversight by the ANZPAA Board.

The ANZPAA NIFS Groups comprise practitioner level representatives from our ANZFEC member agencies. They provide an important mechanism to support and promote the continuous improvement of forensic disciplines, encourage collaboration and innovative thinking, and provide technical guidance and advice on contemporary issues affecting forensic science service provision across Australia and New Zealand.

## ANZFEC Members



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