



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STRATEGY

ANZPAA National Institute of Forensic Science

2017-2020

ANZPAA
Australia New Zealand
Policing Advisory Agency



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
PURPOSE	4
STRATEGY FOUNDATION	5
NEW METHODS AND TECHNOLOGY	5
ESTABLISHED METHODS AND TECHNOLOGY	5
KEY OBJECTIVES	6
SCOPE	7
STRATEGY PROCESS	8
RESEARCH GOVERNANCE	8
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES	8
FUNDING	8
KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER	9
ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	9
APPLICATION PROCESS	10
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	10
APPLICATION SUBMISSION	10
FURTHER INFORMATION	11

INTRODUCTION

In 2001, the National Institute of Forensic Science (NIFS) developed a national Forensic Science Innovation Strategy '*The Advancement of Science for Justice.*' This Innovation Strategy provided options for national collaborative research and development. The primary recommendation was the creation of a national facility to co-ordinate the research effort but recommended funding levels were not secured.

In 2008, NIFS joined the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA), becoming ANZPAA NIFS, and a Research and Development Strategy was developed in 2012. However, a lack of funding and the commencement of the NIFS Review in 2014 meant that the full potential of the Research and Development Strategy was not realised.

The Independent Review of NIFS by the Honourable Frank Vincent QC, recognised the importance of the agency, and recommended the work program should continue within five defined roles:

- ▶ Co-ordination: build jurisdictional and cross-jurisdictional capability through protocols, products and enhanced implementation support.
- ▶ Innovation: contribute to a creative and innovate forensic science body of knowledge.
- ▶ Information Management: promote and facilitate information sharing and cross-jurisdictional dialogue and events.
- ▶ Education and Training: maximise opportunities for forensic science skills and knowledge development.
- ▶ Quality: deliver quality assurance programs, develop standards and manage practitioner certification programs.

Through the development of the Research and Innovation Roadmap (the Roadmap) and Strategy (the Strategy), ANZPAA NIFS will provide support to forensic science research and innovation programs designed to address the needs of forensic science service providers. It is anticipated that a co-ordinated approach will encourage collaboration, reduce duplication and promote a strong research culture for forensic science in Australia and New Zealand.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Strategy is to define the process for ANZPAA NIFS investment in research and innovation initiatives that aim to address one or more of the areas of focus on the Roadmap. This Strategy will apply to initiatives for which an external agency has primary responsibility, and outlines funding and reporting requirements. Those initiatives managed by ANZPAA NIFS will be outlined in the yearly ANZPAA NIFS Business Plan and not considered within this Strategy.

STRATEGY FOUNDATION

Through the development of the Strategy in 2001, as well as subsequent work performed by ANZPAA NIFS in 2012, a number of key themes were identified which also form the basis of this Strategy:

NEW METHODS AND TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION:

- ▶ Validation, verification, implementation and troubleshooting of technology in published literature or purchased off the shelf.

TECHNOLOGY EXTENSION:

- ▶ Extension of mature technology from mainstream science to forensic science and full exploitation of the technology and its application.

TECHNOLOGY CREATION:

- ▶ Discovery of knowledge and invention of technology for forensic science.

ESTABLISHED METHODS AND TECHNOLOGY

The adoption of new technologies and or progress in areas other than forensic science may lead to questioning of even the most established scientific methods or technologies. As a result, research may be required to resolve any issues that are raised.

The foundation elements provide scope for short, medium and long term research and innovation initiatives and the Strategy includes a governance framework that will ensure there is a correct balance between short, medium and long term returns.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The Strategy will build on the foundation of technology adoption, extension and creation by:

- ▶ Identifying research strengths and developing research partnerships, both nationally and internationally
- ▶ Liaising with end user groups to ensure a proper focus for the research effort
- ▶ Facilitating a Research and Innovation Advisory Committee (RIAC) to assist in the national co-ordination and prioritisation of Research and Innovation initiatives
- ▶ Encouraging the development of a stronger research culture within forensic science in Australia
- ▶ Engaging with academia as research providers
- ▶ Engaging with forensic facilities for the provision of suitable expertise
- ▶ Engaging with national research organisations as providers of research expertise and facilities.
- ▶ Providing a mechanism to maximise the funding available for forensic science research and development.

SCOPE

In scope for the Strategy are all forensic science disciplines covered by the Specialist Advisory Groups (SAGs), which are listed on the ANZPAA NIFS website: www.nifs.org.au.

Overarching themes such as forensic intelligence and quality management are in scope, as well as social science research, where outcomes will directly impact forensic science service delivery. Examples of this research include assessing the effectiveness of forensic science and the impacts of human bias.

The priorities for the Strategy are outlined in the Roadmap, and emerging issues considered to be relevant to forensic science service provision by ANZPAA NIFS, the ANZFEC and the RIAC can be added to the Roadmap as and when required.

STRATEGY PROCESS

The focus for the Strategy is on industry agreed areas of focus presented in the Roadmap. The Roadmap will be broken down into specific project questions on an annual basis through stakeholder engagement and advice from the RIAC. General themes contained in the Roadmap include:

- ▶ forensic science and technology advancement
- ▶ forensic intelligence
- ▶ forensic science fundamentals
- ▶ portable and rapid forensic solutions
- ▶ forensic science value and effectiveness.

RESEARCH GOVERNANCE

Initiatives that aim to address one or more of the areas of focus on the Roadmap will be considered by the RIAC, who will provide advice to ANZPAA NIFS and ANZFEC. The RIAC will comprise representatives from the service provider and academic sectors of the forensic science community, as outlined in the RIAC Terms of Reference.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

One of the key objectives of the Strategy is to facilitate the development of a research culture within forensic science in Australia. A mechanism for achieving this would be to have a proportion of the research conducted in operational forensic science laboratories rather than universities or research organisations. However, the primary function of the forensic science laboratories is casework, and practitioners often have little time to engage in research.

The Strategy should find a balance to ensure that where appropriate, research is conducted in operational forensic science laboratories, but in such instances, the researchers must be granted the required time and facilities to conduct the research.

FUNDING

Through its function to 'sponsor and support research in forensic science', ANZPAA NIFS will allocate funding for research and innovation on an annual basis. The level of annual funding to the Research and Innovation Program, and approval for specific projects will be in accordance with the ANZPAA NIFS decision making framework.

Every effort will be made to leverage the available funding through partnerships with the forensic science, law enforcement and justice and research communities and through collaboration with granting bodies.

KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

ANZPAA NIFS will engage with researchers and end users of the research (e.g. ANZFEC agencies) to ensure transfer of knowledge and technology generated by the research program. Options include:

- ▶ dissemination of final reports
- ▶ peer review publication of papers
- ▶ webinars, seminars or workshops.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Recipients of ANZPAA NIFS funding will be required to provide regular update to the ANZFEC on the status of the deliverables for the project. This information will be collected by ANZPAA NIFS and provided to the ANZFEC in a reporting dashboard that outlines the timeline, planned expenditure, expected outcomes, alignment to the Roadmap and any issues that may have been raised. This will assist the ANZFEC in considering the level of funding available to commit to future research and innovation initiatives.

APPLICATION PROCESS

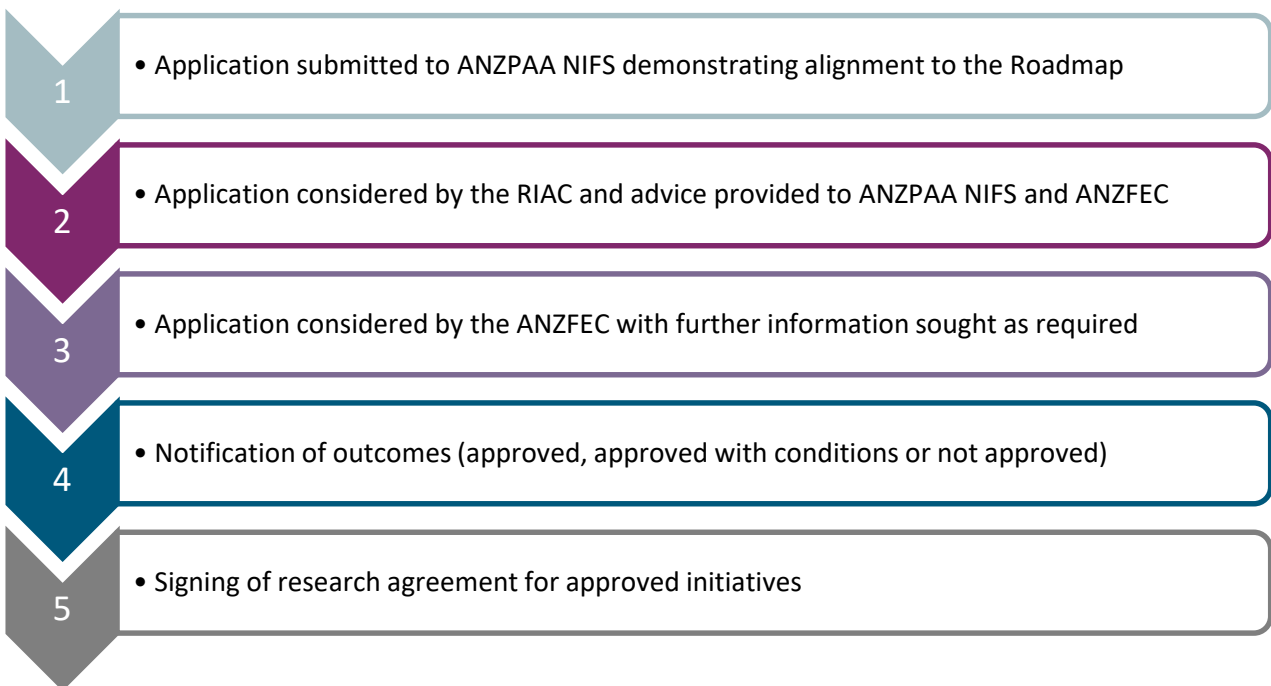
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All applications should be no more than three pages in length and demonstrate the following:

- ▶ Alignment to one or more of the areas of focus on the Roadmap, and/or specific annual project questions.
- ▶ Achievable outcomes and potential applications for ANZFEC agencies.
- ▶ Any perceived risks in achieving documented outcomes.
- ▶ A clear and concise project plan with:
 - > background information
 - > project aim(s)
 - > experimental design
 - > proposed timeline
 - > total expenditure including the requested ANZPAA NIFS cash and in-kind contribution.
- ▶ Capability and capacity to undertake the research such as the required facilities, personnel with appropriate skills, knowledge and the required time.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications should be submitted to secretariat.nifs@anzpaa.org.au and will be accepted on a continuous basis:



FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information regarding this strategy please access the ANZPAA NIFS website www.nifs.org.au or contact secretariat.nifs@anzpaa.org.au.

Level 6, Tower 3, World Trade Centre
637 Flinders Street, Docklands Victoria 3008
DX 210096 Melbourne

T +61 3 9628 7211 F +61 3 9628 7253
E secretariat.nifs@anzpaa.org.au

www.nifs.org.au

ANZPAA
Australia New Zealand
Policing Advisory Agency

