



**Australian Government**  
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30 November 2009

Mr Peter Ford  
Consultant  
Part 1D Review Committee Secretariat  
c/o Criminal Justice Division  
Attorney-General's Department  
3-5 National Circuit  
Barton ACT 2600

Dear Mr Ford

**Review of Part 1D of the Crimes Act (1914)**

Thank you for your letter in early November, addressed to the Chair of the Australian Institute of Criminology, advising you have been engaged by the Attorney-General's Department to chair the review of Part 1D of the Crimes Act (1914) that is required by s.23YV of the Act.

The Australian Institute of Criminology is unable to make a detailed submission on the review as we are not undertaking any dedicated research on the topic at the moment.

The only relevant AIC work is listed below. We realise these are dated; the Institute would be willing to undertake an up to date literature review of what other relevant agencies have published should it be required.

Gans J and Urbas G 2002. **DNA identification in the criminal justice system.** *Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice* no. 226. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology  
<http://www.aic.gov.au/documents/A/8/7/%7BA8774CDA-3A9A-4445-9D88-583757A48003%7Dt226.pdf>

Abstract: This paper examines the science of DNA identification and its use during criminal investigations and in criminal proceedings, including criminal trials, appeals and post conviction proceedings such as review commissions and innocence panels. It outlines the main benefits and costs of the increasing role of DNA identification in the criminal justice system. A table of significant Australian DNA cases is also included.

Easteal PW and Easteal S 1990. **The forensic use of DNA profiling.** *Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice* no. 26. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology  
<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/tandi/21-40/tandi26.aspx>

Abstract: Although many people regard DNA profiling as a powerful breakthrough in forensic science, questions have been raised as to the scientific validity of its application by individual laboratories. Privacy issues have also been raised. This paper canvases these matters and outlines current knowledge of DNA technology. The authors raise several issues that limit the use of profiling in forensic investigations. They emphasise the importance of establishing national standard techniques and population frequency databases that reflect Australia's ethnic composition.

DNA and criminal justice: Proceedings of a conference held 30-31 October 1989  
<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/previous%20series/proceedings/1-27/02.aspx>

Abstract: The papers presented at this conference examine DNA profiling and how it impinges on the criminal justice system. Scientists, lawyers and police explain how this new expert evidence affects their areas of work. Developments such as Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) are presented, and the problems of quality control are revealed in detail. These matters are of great importance when treating evidence in court.

Thank you for inviting the AIC to make a submission to the review.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AT', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(Dr) Adam Tomison  
Director