


Sabina Mandic

From: news
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 6:23 PM
To: Michael Walsh
Cc: Kyle Fogarty;CLLO;David Sinclair;Estimates;Helen Couper;Jacqueline Quigg;Melleesa Cowie;Phoenix Campbell;Rachel Western;Renaie Tesch;Robert Hoge;SDLO;Shannon Fentiman;Natarjsha Kramer;Tracey Walker;Olivia Amsden;Paul Maloney;news;Brad Gardner;Bennett Annis-Brown;Jacqui Heywood;Jane Martin;Andrew Kos
Subject: DG Wrap Thursday 5 October 2023
Attachments:




Good evening DG,

Hot issues

The below are significant and/or new media enquiries or issues finalised today:



- **ABC News Brisbane:** Enquired about recommendation 105 from the 2022 Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing and whether it meant DNA samples dating back to 2007 would be reviewed. The journalist also asked about Project 13, which is the subject of the new Commission of Inquiry, and whether Professor Wilson-Wilde would be considering her legal options due to recent media coverage about her. The journalist was provided with the Ministerial media release announcing the new Inquiry and informed some questions raised were the subject of the new Inquiry, so it would be inappropriate to comment on them.
- 

Kind regards,
Darren



Darren Hallesy

Senior Media Officer

Media Unit | Queensland Health

Working hours Monday to Friday

P (07) [redacted] | [redacted]
E [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au
W health.qld.gov.au

**DONATE A MINUTE.
DONATE A LIFETIME.**

**REGISTER AS AN ORGAN
AND TISSUE DONOR TODAY**
DONATELIFE.GOV.AU/REGISTER



RTI RELEASE

DOH DISCLOSURE LOG COPY

From: [QH Update](#)
To: [Michael Walsh](#)
Subject: New DNA Commission of Inquiry announced today
Date: Thursday, 5 October 2023 5:49:03 PM

Having trouble viewing this email? [View Online](#)

Special Broadcast



Dear colleagues

We are committed to building a world-class forensic and DNA testing service, and I am incredibly proud of the work underway by Forensic Science Queensland (FSQ), Forensic and Scientific Services (FSS) and the DNA Commission of Inquiry Taskforce. Significant progress has been made to deliver the 123 recommendations of the 2022 Commission of Inquiry – with 34 completed and 68 underway.

The implementation of these recommendations continues, along with the excellent progress underway to rebuild Forensic Science Queensland (FSQ) and maintain operations, under the leadership of Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde. This work is leading to justice for victims of crime in Queensland, with new convictions achieved for sexual assault cases and one homicide conviction.

You may have recently seen in the media, concerns about automated extraction methods implemented via 'Project 13' in 2007. To further investigate these, the Minister for Health Shannon Fentiman today announced a new independent Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA testing, led by retired Federal Court Judge Annabelle Bennett.

This new Commission of Inquiry will allow the concerns to be examined in a transparent and comprehensive manner. FSQ had already committed to reviewing serious crime cases and associated samples back to 2007, with the flexibility to go further back if required.

A retrospective review of the automated method of DNA extraction, introduced in 2007 and processed by the MultiProbe II instrument, was also a recommendation in the 2022 Commission of Inquiry, and includes samples affected under Project 13.

The final report for the new Commission of Inquiry is due on **17 November 2023**.

I don't want this announcement to overshadow the extraordinary progress that has been made in this space to date.

Staff wellbeing is a priority, and everyone will be supported through this process. Anyone needing any additional support should speak to their line manager or reach out to their [local employee assistance service provider](#).

I will continue to keep staff informed.

Kind regards

Michael Walsh
A/Director-General

[Queensland Health](#)

Queensland Government
33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

Queensland Government Crest




This email was sent by SCB Internal Comms, SCB Internal Comms, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane, QLD 4000, Australia to Michael.Walsh@health.qld.gov.au



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DOH DISCLOSURE LOG COPY

Sabina Mandic

From: Michael Walsh
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 4:59 PM
To: Helen Couper
Cc: Tracey Walker;Jacqui Heywood;Megan Fairweather;Aaron Suthers
Subject: Re: For your review and approval: DG message to all staff re: new DNA COI

Approved. Thanks. Michael

Michael Walsh

A/Director-General

Queensland Health

P 07 [REDACTED]
E [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au
W health.qld.gov.au
A 33 Charlotte Street Brisbane

Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land across Queensland, and pays respect to First Nations Elders past, present and future.

From: Helen Couper <[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 4:51:32 PM
To: Michael Walsh [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Tracey Walker <T[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Jacqui Heywood [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Megan Fairweather [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>; Aaron Suthers [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: For your review and approval: DG message to all staff re: new DNA COI

Good afternoon DG

Please find attached and below a message from you to all staff to go out this afternoon regarding the announcement of the new DNA Commission of Inquiry. For your approval please.

It will go on your template.

I have worked directly with [@Tracey Walker](#) on this.

++

New DNA Commission of Inquiry announced today

We are committed to building a world-class forensic and DNA testing service, and I am incredibly proud of the work underway by Forensic Science Queensland (FSQ), Forensic and Scientific Services (FSS) and the DNA Commission of Inquiry Taskforce.

Significant progress has been made to deliver the 123 recommendations of the 2022 Commission of Inquiry– with 34 completed and 68 underway.

The implementation of these recommendations continues, along with the excellent progress underway to rebuild Forensic Science Queensland (FSQ) and maintain operations, under the leadership of Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde.

This work is leading to justice for victims of crime in Queensland, with new convictions achieved for sexual assault cases and one homicide conviction.

You may have recently seen in the media, concerns about automated extraction methods implemented via 'Project 13' in 2007.

To further investigate these, the Minister for Health Shannon Fentiman today announced a new independent Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA testing, led by retired Federal Court Judge Annabelle Bennett.

This new Commission of Inquiry will allow the concerns to be examined in a transparent and comprehensive manner.

FSQ had already committed to reviewing serious crime cases and associated samples back to 2007, with the flexibility to go further back if required.

A retrospective review of the automated method of DNA extraction, introduced in 2007 and processed by the MultiProbe II instrument, was also a recommendation in the 2022 Commission of Inquiry, and includes samples affected under Project 13.

The final report for the new Commission of Inquiry is due on 17 November 2023.

I don't want this announcement to overshadow the extraordinary progress that has been made in this space to date.

Staff wellbeing is a priority, and everyone will be supported through this process. Anyone needing any additional support should speak to their line manager or reach out to their local employee assistance service provider.

I will continue to keep staff informed.

Kind regards,

Michael Walsh

A/Director-General

++

Kind regards,



Helen Couper

Acting Director, Media, Social Media and Creative

Strategic Communications Branch, Strategy, Policy and Reform Division | Queensland Health
Working hours Monday - Thursday

- P** [via teams](#) [redacted]
- E** [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au
- W** health.qld.gov.au
- A** [Level 3, 33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane CBD](#)

MENTAL WELLBEING | *Dear mind, remember to make time for you*
Visit qld.gov.au/mentalwellbeing



Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land across Queensland, and pays respect to First Nations Elders past, present and future.

Sabina Mandic

From: Megan Fairweather
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 12:46 PM
To: Michael Walsh;Robert Hoge
Cc: Jacqui Heywood;Tracey Walker
Subject: RE: Draft message to Forensic staff regarding the COI

We have had nothing but really positive feedback Michael, people really appreciated the fact you made the effort to talk to them.

Kind regards, Megan



Megan Fairweather
Chief Legal Counsel | Human Rights
Champion
Legal Branch, Corporate Services
Division | Queensland Health

P [redacted]
E [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au
W health.qld.gov.au

CLOSING THE GAP | Improving health equity for First Nations Queenslanders



Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land across Queensland, and pays respect to First Nations Elders past, present and future.

From: Michael Walsh [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 11:06 AM
To: Robert Hoge [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Jacqui Heywood [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Tracey Walker [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Megan Fairweather [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Draft message to Forensic staff regarding the COI

Thanks. Also, the meeting with the FSQ staff went well. It is hard for them. Michael



Michael Walsh
A/Director-General
Queensland Health

P 07 [redacted]
E [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au
W health.qld.gov.au
A [33 Charlotte Street Brisbane](http://33.CharlotteStreetBrisbane)

HEALTHQ32

Our vision is to be a dynamic and responsive health system where our workforce is valued and empowered to provide world-class healthcare to all Queenslanders.



Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land across Queensland, and pays respect to First Nations Elders past, present and future.

From: Robert Hoge [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 10:54 AM
To: Michael Walsh [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Cc: Jacqui Heywood [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>; Tracey Walker [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>; Megan Fairweather [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: Draft message to Forensic staff regarding the COI

Thanks Michael,

I'll get that done straight away.

Robert

From: Michael Walsh [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 10:52 AM
To: Robert Hoge [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Cc: Jacqui Heywood <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>; Tracey Walker [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>; Megan Fairweather [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Subject: Re: Draft message to Forensic staff regarding the COI

Robert

Can you please run it past Linzi first. I said I would show it to her before I sent it to her staff. If Linzi is happy with it, I am happy for you to organise for it to be sent.

Thanks

Michael

Michael Walsh

A/Director-General

Queensland Health

P 07 [REDACTED]
E [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
W health.qld.gov.au
A 33 Charlotte Street Brisbane

Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land across Queensland, and pays respect to First Nations Elders past, present and future.

From: Robert Hoge [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 9:50:34 AM
To: Michael Walsh [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Cc: Jacqui Heywood [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>; Tracey Walker [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>; Megan Fairweather [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Subject: Re: Draft message to Forensic staff regarding the COI

Looks fine, Michael.

We can organise to send from your office as soon as you're finished if you like.

Thanks,
Robert

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Michael Walsh [REDACTED] [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 7:44:20 AM
To: Robert Hoge <[R \[REDACTED\]@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Cc: Jacqui Heywood [REDACTED] [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>; Tracey Walker [REDACTED] [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>; Megan Fairweather [REDACTED] [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Subject: Re: Draft message to Forensic staff regarding the COI

Robert

I have made a few changes to the message in the attached. Can you please review and let me know what you think.

Thanks

Michael

Michael Walsh

A/Director-General

Queensland Health

P 07 [REDACTED]
E [REDACTED] [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)
W health.qld.gov.au
A 33 Charlotte Street Brisbane

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From: Robert Hoge [REDACTED] [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 7:07 pm
To: Michael Walsh [REDACTED] [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Cc: Jacqui Heywood [REDACTED] [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>; Tracey Walker [REDACTED] [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>; Megan Fairweather [REDACTED] [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au)>
Subject: Draft message to Forensic staff regarding the COI

Evening Michael,

Below is a draft message for you to Forensic staff post your meeting tomorrow morning.

Jacqui and Megan have reviewed an earlier version of this and we're suggesting something sooner and shorter, which would be followed up in more detail in coming days (by the end of the week).

Thanks,
Robert

DOH DISCLOSURE LOG COPY

Colleagues,

Today the Queensland Government has announced a new independent Commission of Inquiry into certain elements of Forensic DNA testing in Queensland.

The Inquiry's terms of reference include reviewing recent public statements and other documents in relation to automated DNA extraction methods introduced under what is known as Project 13 and whether the recommendations from the previous Inquiry are sufficient to address this matter.

I understand this may prompt questions about how this might impact you. We will provide further information to you on a range of matters in coming days.

Should you feel the need to access support, please see your direct manager or seek help through the Department of Health [Employee Assistance Service](#). EAS support will also be available for you in the office.

Thank you for the work you are doing to support forensic science and related activities. You and your work matter. The important work you are undertaking will continue. This includes progress towards implementing recommendations from the 2022 Commission of Inquiry.

Regards
Michael Walsh
Acting Director-General

RTI RELEASE

DOH DISCLOSURE LOG COPY

Sabina Mandic

From: Jim Guthrie
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 6:55 AM
To: Jim Guthrie
Subject: Today in Queensland Health and the Office for Women 051023

Good morning all!

Every day, Queensland Health and the Office for Women reach and engage with millions of Queenslanders via traditional, social and digital media platforms. This daily snapshot gives an insight into what the public is seeing, hearing and reading about our organisations right across the state.

You can read the full media report [HERE](#)

QLD HEALTH HOT ISSUES:

- The Australian: [Tearing open DNA lab cover-up](#)
A new commission of inquiry will be launched into a catastrophically flawed DNA extraction method that has been blamed for samples failing to identify Shandee Blackburn's killer in 2013 and that may have denied Queensland victims of crime crucial evidence for nine years.

- The Australian (Editorial): [Forensic probe doesn't stop here](#)
Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman has made the correct and necessary call in ordering a new commission of inquiry into deeply troubling failings involving former and current management of the state's DNA lab.
- Courier-Mail: [New DNA lab probe](#)
A new commission of inquiry will be launched into the catastrophic failings of Queensland's state-run forensic laboratory.



Regards, Jim



Jim Guthrie ([He/Him](#))

**Principal Media Officer, Torres and Cape,
Central West and South West HHSs**

Media Unit, Strategic

Communications | Queensland Health

Working hours Tuesday to Friday

P (07) [REDACTED]
E [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au
W health.qld.gov.au
A Level 3, 33 Charlotte St, Brisbane, QLD 4000

**QUEENSLAND
HEALTH VISION**

A world class health system for all Queenslanders



Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land across Queensland, and pays respect to First Nations Elders past, present and future.

RTI RELEASED

DOH DISCLOSURE LOG COPY

Sabina Mandic

From: Michael Walsh
Sent: Friday, 6 October 2023 1:20 PM
To: Trish Nielsen; Megan Fairweather; Jacqui Heywood
Subject: FW: Commission of Inquiry into DNA testing at Queensland's Forensic and Scientific Services
Attachments: 05.10.23 - [30] Extra Gazette.pdf

This email has been sent. Thanks for organising it. Michael



Michael Walsh
 A/Director-General
 Queensland Health

P 07 [REDACTED]
E [REDACTED]@health.qld.gov.au
W health.qld.gov.au
A 33 Charlotte Street Brisbane

HEALTHQ32

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From: Michael Walsh
Sent: Friday, 6 October 2023 1:18 PM
To: janine.mitchell@[REDACTED].qld.gov.au; [REDACTED]@courts.qld.gov.au; [REDACTED]@justice.qld.gov.au; [REDACTED]@courts.qld.gov.au; Philip McCarthy [REDACTED]@justice.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Jasmina Joldic [REDACTED]@justice.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Commission of Inquiry into DNA testing at Queensland's Forensic and Scientific Services

Colleagues

Yesterday the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women, the Honourable Shannon Fentiman announced a second Commission of Inquiry into DNA testing at Queensland's Forensic and Scientific Services.

This follows the completion of the previous Commission of Inquiry conducted by Mr Walter Sofronoff KC into related matters that concluded on 13 December 2023. The Commission of Inquiry conducted by Mr Sofronoff identified opportunities for service improvement and ensure public confidence in the collection and testing of DNA in Queensland.

You may have seen public commentary that continues to question the consideration of the systems and processes for DNA testing and analysis outlined in 'Project 13. Report on the Verification of an Automated DNA IQ TM Protocol using the MultiPROBE® II PLUS HT EX with Gripper TM Integration Platform' (Project 13).

This new Inquiry was commissioned to ensure transparency, identify opportunities for further improvement and ensure that matters related to 'Project 13' are further considered.

As the Commissioner is independent of Government, they will form a view of how, if during the COI issues are highlighted impacting on current cases before the court, the Commissioner will ensure relevant parties are made aware of this. The process for this will be something for the Commissioner to consider in the particular cases should the need arise.

The Commissioner may also need to consider whether sealed volumes of the proposed final report (and interim report, if provided) may be required. This may be necessary where issues raised during the COI relate to matters currently before the courts or where the appeal period has not expired. The Commissioner could submit volumes of the proposed report/s on the basis they be sealed until an appropriate time, as determined by the Commissioner.

The Terms of Reference for the review are contained within the extraordinary gazette dated Thursday, 5 October 2023 which is attached and available at the following link:

<https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/extraordinary-gazettes-october-2023/resource/34d42fa8-283d-4763-be77-87a02bcf14cf>

Regards

Michael



Michael Walsh
A/Director-General
Queensland Health

P 07 [redacted]
E [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au
W health.qld.gov.au
A 33 Charlotte Street Brisbane

HEALTHQ32 Our vision is to be a dynamic and responsive health system where our workforce is valued and empowered to provide world-class healthcare to all Queenslanders.




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DOH DISCLOSURE LOG COPY

Sabina Mandic

From: Michael Walsh
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 12:19 PM
To: DL-AIISTAFFSQ
Subject: New independent Commission of Inquiry into certain elements of Forensic DNA testing in Queensland

Colleagues

Today the Queensland Government has announced a new independent Commission of Inquiry into certain elements of Forensic DNA testing in Queensland.

The Inquiry's terms of reference include reviewing recent public statements and other documents in relation to DNA extraction methods reviewed in what is known as Project 13 and whether the recommendations from the previous Inquiry are sufficient to address these matters.

The wellbeing of our staff is paramount during this process, along with the continued quality operation of our Forensic DNA services. I understand you may have questions regarding this new process. We will provide information as the Commission of Inquiry is established and progresses.

Should you feel the need to access support, please see your direct manager or seek help through the Department of Health [Employee Assistance Service](#). EAS support will also be available for you in the office.

Thank you for the work you are doing to support forensic science and related activities. You and your work matter. The important work you are undertaking will continue. This includes progress towards implementing recommendations from the 2022 Commission of Inquiry.

Regards

Michael



Michael Walsh
 A/Director-General
 Queensland Health

P 07 [redacted]
E [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au
W health.qld.gov.au
A 33 Charlotte Street Brisbane

HEALTHQ32

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Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land across Queensland, and pays respect to First Nations Elders past, present and future.

DOH DISCLOSURE LOG COPY

14:49



5G

Edit

All

Missed

Brisbane, Queensland

Shannon Fentiman

mobile

4/10/2023



Michael Walsh (2)

phone

4/10/2023



Michael Walsh

phone

4/10/2023



5 October 2023

Thursday

October 2023

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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30	31					

November 2023

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

		THURSDAY	Notes
		5	
NSW/VIC(Brisbane)			
8 ^{AM}	7 ^{AM}		
9	8		
10	9	All Staff Meeting (compulsory) FSS-Conference-Theatre Chief Executive Officer Forensic Science QLD	
11	10	MTG A/DG + CEO FSQ: CEO's office, 39 Kessels Rd, Coopers Plains, Michael	
12 ^{PM}	11		
1	12 ^{PM}		
2	1		
3	2		
4	3		
5	4		
6	5		
7	6		

OCTOBER

Midweek work - 04-10-23

Announcement honored morning
will be in the paper

Later tonight

Monday
2

Can tell after 5pm - by phone
9am all staff meeting
Bruce Bidwell - Walter work hour
involved

* CN - Hong Kong SAR, China - IN

PH
07:05-
16:30

Call with - 04-10-23

Tuesday
3

- Arranging legal representation
- Jackie Hamilton from Holden + Medico
- No further communication in Megan Fairweather
- Ask for tonight or honored morning
You have said in past raised
council meeting

* CN - DE - KR

07:05-
16:30

Wednesday
4

PRQ Leadership Meeting 05-10-23

- Call of Tom point of contact for C21
- Me to be kept at arms length
- 6 weeks, review will fall down
- More psych support for staff
- On coming

* CN

07:05-
16:30

Thursday

5

Samatha mbs: [redacted]
- HR wellbeing report

* CN - PT

07:10-
16:10

Friday

6

* CN - EG - IL

07:20-
16:15

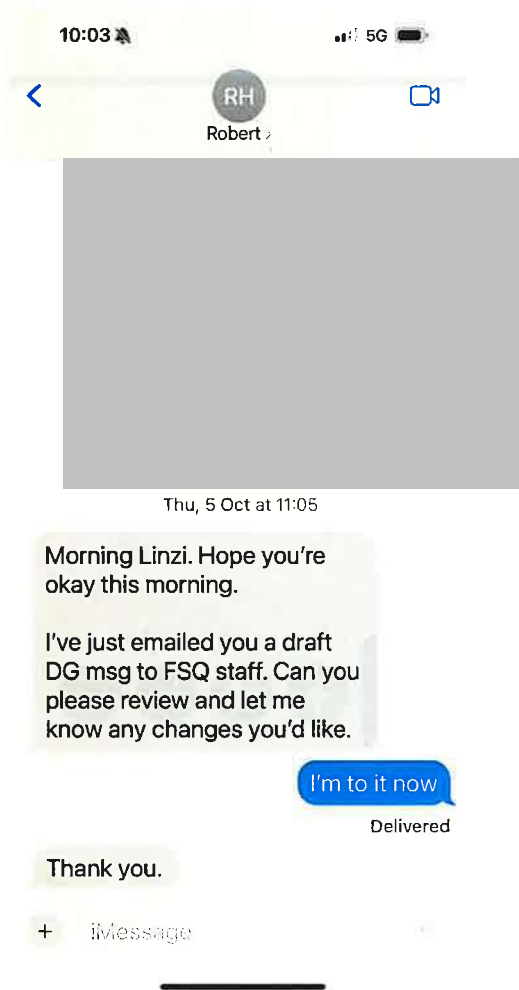
13:48

Saturday

* CN - IL

Sunday

8



Sent from my iPhone

Linzi Wilson-Wilde

From: Linzi Wilson-Wilde
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 11:08 AM
To: Robert Hoge
Cc: Jacqui Heywood; Tracey Walker; Rachel Lohse-Phillips
Subject: RE: Draft message from DG to FSQ staff

Reads well thank you.

Rachel can assist in getting the message out to staff if required.

You may want to send it to FSS staff as well as some of their staff would have been around when project 13 was being done.

All the best, Linzi



Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM PhD

Chief Executive Officer

Forensic Science Queensland

Queensland Health

Professor of Forensic Science

Flinders University

P 0 [redacted]
E [redacted]@health.qld.gov.au
W www.health.qld.gov.au
A 39Kessels Road Coopers Plains Qld 4108

Forensic Science **Queensland**



Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.



ENGENDER CHANGE

Transforming Culture Through Leadership

From: Robert Hoge <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 11:04 AM
To: Linzi Wilson-Wilde <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Jacqui Heywood <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>; Tracey Walker <[redacted]@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Draft message from DG to FSQ staff

Morning Linzi,

I hope you're doing okay this morning.

As discussed with the DG earlier, below is a message designed to go out from him to FSQ staff this morning. It's designed to be an initial message designed to inform and support them. There will be further follow-up with more information to come.

DG has asked if you could review it before it goes out. Can you let me know ASAP if you'd like any changes.

Regards,
 Robert

Colleagues

Today the Queensland Government has announced a new independent Commission of Inquiry into certain elements of Forensic DNA testing in Queensland.

The Inquiry's terms of reference include reviewing recent public statements and other documents in relation to DNA extraction methods reviewed in what is known as Project 13 and whether the recommendations from the previous Inquiry are sufficient to address these matters.

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Should you feel the need to access support, please see your direct manager or seek help through the Department of Health [Employee Assistance Service](#). EAS support will also be available for you in the office.

Thank you for the work you are doing to support forensic science and related activities. You and your work matter. The important work you are undertaking will continue. This includes progress towards implementing recommendations from the 2022 Commission of Inquiry.

Regards

Michael Walsh

A/Director-General




Robert Hoge (he/him)
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HEALTHQ32 Our vision is to be a dynamic and responsive health system where our workforce is valued and empowered to provide world-class healthcare to all Queenslanders.



Queensland Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land across Queensland, and pays respect to First Nations Elders past, present and future.

Linzi Wilson-Wilde

From: Michael Walsh
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 12:19 PM
To: DL-AIISTAFFFSQ
Subject: New independent Commission of Inquiry into certain elements of Forensic DNA testing in Queensland

Colleagues

Today the Queensland Government has announced a new independent Commission of Inquiry into certain elements of Forensic DNA testing in Queensland.

The Inquiry's terms of reference include reviewing recent public statements and other documents in relation to DNA extraction methods reviewed in what is known as Project 13 and whether the recommendations from the previous Inquiry are sufficient to address these matters.

The wellbeing of our staff is paramount during this process, along with the continued quality operation of our Forensic DNA services. I understand you may have questions regarding this new process. We will provide information as the Commission of Inquiry is established and progresses.

Should you feel the need to access support, please see your direct manager or seek help through the Department of Health [Employee Assistance Service](#). EAS support will also be available for you in the office.

Thank you for the work you are doing to support forensic science and related activities. You and your work matter. The important work you are undertaking will continue. This includes progress towards implementing recommendations from the 2022 Commission of Inquiry.

Regards

Michael



Michael Walsh
 A/Director-General
 Queensland Health

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HEALTHQ32

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Linzi Wilson-Wilde

From: QH Update <QHUpdate@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 5:51 PM
To: Linzi Wilson-Wilde
Subject: New DNA Commission of Inquiry announced today

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QH Update

Michael Walsh

A/Director-General
Queensland Health



Dear colleagues

We are committed to building a world-class forensic and DNA testing service, and I am incredibly proud of the work underway by Forensic Science Queensland (FSQ), Forensic and Scientific Services (FSS) and the DNA Commission of Inquiry Taskforce. Significant progress has been made to deliver the 123 recommendations of the 2022 Commission of Inquiry – with 34 completed and 68 underway.

The implementation of these recommendations continues, along with the excellent progress underway to rebuild Forensic Science Queensland (FSQ) and maintain operations, under the leadership of Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde. This work is leading to justice for victims of crime in Queensland, with new convictions achieved for sexual assault cases and one homicide conviction.

You may have recently seen in the media, concerns about automated extraction methods

implemented via 'Project 13' in 2007. To further investigate these, the Minister for Health Shannon Fentiman today announced a new independent Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA testing, led by retired Federal Court Judge Annabelle Bennett.

This new Commission of Inquiry will allow the concerns to be examined in a transparent and comprehensive manner. FSQ had already committed to reviewing serious crime cases and associated samples back to 2007, with the flexibility to go further back if required.

A retrospective review of the automated method of DNA extraction, introduced in 2007 and processed by the MultiProbe II instrument, was also a recommendation in the 2022 Commission of Inquiry, and includes samples affected under Project 13.

The final report for the new Commission of Inquiry is due on **17 November 2023**.

I don't want this announcement to overshadow the extraordinary progress that has been made in this space to date.

Staff wellbeing is a priority, and everyone will be supported through this process. Anyone needing any additional support should speak to their line manager or reach out to their [local employee assistance service provider](#).

I will continue to keep staff informed.

Kind regards

Michael Walsh

A/Director-General

[Queensland Health](#)

Queensland Government

33 Charlotte Street, Brisbane QLD 4000



**Queensland
Government**

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Linzi Wilson-Wilde

From: Catherine Scott
Sent: Friday, 6 October 2023 10:54 AM
To: DL-AIISTAFFFSQ
Subject: Important announcement - staff supports available at FSQ

Good morning everyone,

Thank you for your attendance at the all staff forum yesterday.

As mentioned during that forum, we will be providing additional support to all FSQ staff through both existing staff channels and through additional external supports that have been engaged.

I am very pleased to announce that Sacha Boyce from Benestar will be onsite, 5 days a week, from today until early December from approximately 8:30am - 3pm daily. Sacha has been set up in Room **FSS-CR106**.

Some of you may be familiar with Sacha from her presence onsite during the previous Commission of Inquiry. I would encourage anyone who wishes to avail themselves of Sacha's support to please drop by and see her or contact her on [REDACTED] or by email [REDACTED]@benestar.com.

In addition to Sacha's wonderful support, we of course have our own wonderful team of Culture and Wellbeing/HR support here at FSQ of Karen Grogan, Niamh Shuley and Helen Montgomery who are available to you all at any time as well.

Your line managers, together with Tamara Scharneck and myself are all also available to answer any questions that you may have or provide support.

Tam and I will continue to update you all on a regular basis as significant events occur or milestones in the COI process are reached.

Please do not hesitate about asking questions or seeking support if you wish to do so. Together we will openly share information and navigate this Commission of Inquiry with as little disruption as possible to the important work you all do here at FSQ.

Have a wonderful Friday.

Kindest regards
 Cath



Catherine Scott (she/her)
 A/Executive Director Forensic Operations
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