

Theresa Stinson

From: Amanda Medew
Sent: Friday, 1 September 2023 4:17 PM
To: Tracey Walker; news; Natarjsha Kramer; Rachel Western; Phoenix Campbell
Cc: Linzi Wilson-Wilde; Hannah Jarman; Jess Wellard; Michael Walsh; David Sinclair
Subject: RE: Positive results - DNA cases

Love your optimism Tracey. Fingers crossed and well done all.

Have a great weekend.

Amanda

From: Tracey Walker **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 4:10 PM
To: news **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Natarjsha Krame **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Rachel Western **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Phoenix Campbell **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Amanda Medew **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Linzi Wilson-Wilde **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Hannah Jarman **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Jess Wellard **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Michael Walsh **Irrelevant** health.qld.gov.au>; David Sinclair **Irrelevant** health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Positive results - DNA cases

Hi News and MO

Pls find below final information sent to The Australian this afternoon for a story being published tomorrow, possibly page 1.

It supports an interview with Prof Wilson Wilde yesterday that resulted from questions from Hedley Thomas and David Murray related to potentially significant negative aspects of work at the lab from 2007.

News team - Prof Wilson-Wilde is the contact for content over the weekend.

Thanks very much Natarjsha for getting it through Attorney General's office as well so they know it is coming.

PS - have suggested to The Australian the heading "Positive Results" but I may be being too positive!

Kind regards

Tracey



Tracey Walker
Executive Director
Strategic Communications Branch
Queensland Health

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From: Murray, David **Irrelevant**
Sent: Friday, 1 September 2023 3:51 PM
To: Tracey Walker **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:tracey.walker@health.qld.gov.au)>
Cc: Thomas, Hedley **Irrelevant**
Subject: Re: Urgent - positive DNA cases

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Received, thanks very much Tracey.

On Fri, 1 Sept 2023 at 15:50, Tracey Walker **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:tracey.walker@health.qld.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi David and Hedley

Pls find below examples of FSQ reviewing cases and getting positive results.

Positive results

2019 murder of pregnant Ipswich woman Kardell Lomas – new DNA evidence sees defendant plead guilty

Previous results – DNA profiles were assessed as coming from up to three people.

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A total of 10 DNA samples previously interpreted as coming from three people were reassessed as coming from two people; and a further two DNA profiles originally assessed as coming from two people were reassessed as coming from one person.

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DAVID MURRAY
National Crime Correspondent

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GPO Box 130, Brisbane, QLD 4001


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Theresa Stinson

From: Natarjsha Kramer
Sent: Saturday, 2 September 2023 9:26 AM
To: Shannon Fentiman
Subject: FW: HIB - Forensic Science Queensland Media interviews
Attachments: HIB - Forensic Science Queensland Media interviews.docx; HIB - Forensic Science Queensland Media interviews.pdf; Att 1 - Media Request - Mr Hedley Thomas to Ms Vanessa Ientile.pdf; Att 2 - Generic case information.pdf

From: SDLO **Irrelevant**@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 6:37 PM
To: Alex Mayfield **Irrelevant** health.qld.gov.au>; Amanda Medew **Irrelevant** ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Amy Goodwin **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Amy **Irrelevant** Melville **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Ben Armstrong **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Brett Reed **Irrelevant**@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Claire Daly **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; CLLO **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Denise Spokes **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; DG correspondence **Irrelevant** health.qld.gov.au>; DL-ELT_Personal **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Estimates **Irrelevant** health.qld.gov.au>; Finn Semple **Irrelevant** ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Hamish Swanson **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Jacqueline Quigg **Irrelevant** @ambulance.qld.gov.au>; James Farrell **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Jess Burns **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Julie Shilton-Beva **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Kyle Fogarty **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Luke Richmond **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Madeline Cunnington **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Mark Gibb **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Melleesa Cowie **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Michael Walsh **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Michaela Edwards **Irrelevant** ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Miranda Claughton **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Natarjsha Kramer **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; new **Irrelevant** health.qld.gov.au>; Nick Steele **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Olivia Amsden **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Phoenix Campbell **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Rachel Western **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Renaie Tesch **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Sabina Mandic **Irrelevant** health.qld.gov.au>; Sally Gannon **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Stephen Stewart **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Tracey Walker **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Trish Nielsen **Irrelevant** health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: HIB - Forensic Science Queensland Media interviews

Good evening,

Please find attached a Hot Issues Brief (HIB) prepared by Forensic Science Queensland in relation recent media interviews undertaken by Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM, Chief Executive Officer, Forensic Science Queensland (FSQ).

The HIB was prepared noting that further media articles may be published post interviews.

Regards,
Sabina



Sabina Mandic
A/Principal Briefing and Liaison Officer
Office of the Director-General and System Strategy
Division | Queensland Health

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SDLO

From: Jess Wellard
Sent: Friday, 1 September 2023 5:47 PM
To: SDLO
Subject: Fwd: Positive results - DNA cases - info sent to The Australian

Categories: Denise

Second email attachment

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From: Linzi Wilson-Wilde **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 5:42:30 PM
To: Jess Wellard **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Positive results - DNA cases - info sent to The Australian



Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Forensic Science Queensland
Queensland Health

Professor of Forensic Science
Flinders University

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A 39 Kessels Road Coopers Plains Qld 4108



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Sent: Friday, 1 September 2023 4:10 PM
To: news **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Natarjsha Kramer **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Rachel Western **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Phoenix Campbell **Irrelevant** ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Amanda Medew **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
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Tracey



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Executive Director
Strategic Communications Branch
Queensland Health

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From: Murray, David Irrelevant@theaustralian.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 September 2023 3:51 PM
To: Tracey Walker Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Thomas, Hedley Irrelevant@theaustralian.com.au>
Subject: Re: Urgent - positive DNA cases

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DAVID MURRAY
National Crime Correspondent

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SDLO

From: Jess Wellard
Sent: Friday, 1 September 2023 5:47 PM
To: SDLO
Subject: Fwd: Media request - The Australian

Categories: Denise

First email attachment

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From: Linzi Wilson-Wilde **Irrelevant** health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 1:28:18 PM
To: Jess Wellard **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Media request - The Australian



Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Forensic Science Queensland
Queensland Health

Professor of Forensic Science
Flinders University

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E **Irrelevant** health.qld.gov.au
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A [39Kessels Road Coopers Plains Qld 4108](#)

Forensic Science Queensland    

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From: Vanessa Ientil **Irrelevant**
Sent: Friday, 1 September 2023 9:43 AM
To: Linzi Wilson-Wilde **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Media request - The Australian

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Murray, David" Irrelevant@theaustralian.com.au>
Date: 30 August 2023 at 11:26:58 am AEST
To: Irrelevant@theaustralian.com.au "Thomas, Hedley" Irrelevant@theaustralian.com.au>
Subject: Media request - The Australian

Hi Vanessa,

Thank you for your time on the phone yesterday.

As discussed, we are examining a scientific paper published by the DNA inquiry in which you are listed as one of the authors.

We are intending to report on this paper in the Shandee's Legacy podcast series and in The Australian's print and online editions.

We would be happy to meet with you, talk over the phone, or to correspond in writing if you'd prefer. If there are any matters you would like to discuss on a confidential basis please let us know.

It would be much appreciated if you could get back to us tomorrow.

Background

The paper is titled 'Report on the Verification of an Automated DNA IQ Protocol Using the MultiProbe II PLUS HT EX with Gripper Integration Platform.' It can be found here:

<https://www.dnainquiry.qld.gov.au/public-hearings/assets/exhibits/module-4/EXH%20129.95%20-%20FSS.0001.0084.1444.pdf>

The opening summary paragraph states that a manual method for extracting DNA from forensic samples using the DNA IQ system was validated for routine use. An automated method was then verified. The summary states: "Data indicate that results from the automated procedure are comparable to those from the manual procedure", and recommends implementation of the automated method.

This was at a time when Qld Health's DNA testing laboratory was under enormous pressure with backlogs, and politicians as well as judges and lawyers were demanding faster turnaround times.

The particular automated method was implemented in October 2007 - during your time as managing scientist at the lab - and it was used until 2016, spanning nine years.

The summary of the Project 13 scientific paper is plainly contradicted by the details within the paper. See contents of the Project 13 report including details provided from page 12 onwards about comparison with the manual method, Figures 9 to 12.

These details, results and charts indicate significant failure of the new automated DNA extraction method, such that it was recovering up to 92 per cent less DNA than the manual method.

The Project 13 report also states that contamination was detected.

Despite these results, the automated method was implemented.

The Sofronoff Commission of Inquiry's findings in its final report described a contamination event relating to this same automated method.

See from page 367 of the inquiry's report for information about the DNA IQ contamination event:

https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0036/1196685/final-report-coi-dna-testing-qld-dec-2022.pdf

Expert witnesses Dr Bruce Budowle, Jo Veth and Kirsty Wright gave evidence on Thursday 24 November - Module 6 - and their evidence was about their identification of systemic problems with this automated extraction method. These problems were separate to the contamination issues, and instead related to their findings that the automated method was failing to recover DNA.

Their discovery of the method's failure to recover DNA came late in the inquiry, only two days before they testified. This meant there was very little time to properly analyse it.

See the findings from page 376 of the inquiry's final report in relation to how this automated method could have impacted Shandee Blackburn's case and other cases.

Recommendation 105 of the inquiry tasked the DNA lab with discovering how long the flawed method was performing sub-optimally.

Dr Kirsty Wright has - since the inquiry - independently conducted further analysis and has raised with The Australian significant concerns about the contents of the Project 13 report.

Questions/discussion points

It is our understanding that you ceased being managing scientist in July 2008. Can you please confirm when you left the lab? Why did you leave the role, and was it your decision to leave?

Your departure from the role occurred during attempts to resolve the serious contamination event caused by the new automated method. Did this, or any other issue relating to the automated DNA extraction method, contribute to your departure from the role?

Had you seen the Project 13 report or any other versions of the report, prior to being contacted by The Australian?

What was the extent of your role in Project 13 and in preparing the Project 13 report?

Why did the Project 13 report state in the summary that the results of the manual and automated methods were comparable? Do you agree, based on the contents of the Project 13 report, that the results were not comparable and that the summary should not have stated this? (See details in the report

including those provided from page 12 onwards about comparison with the manual method.)

Do you agree that based on the contents of the report that it should not have recommended the automated method be implemented and/or should have instead recommended that further testing be conducted before implementation?

Were you aware of any difficulties with the automated method during the trialling and verification of it, and do you recall reporting this to anyone?

Do you agree that the contents of the Project 13 report indicate that scientists at the lab were aware the automated method was failing before it was implemented?

Was the Project 13 report's summary deliberately misleading and deceptive? Was there an ulterior purpose for providing a misleading statement in the summary, for instance to achieve implementation of the failing automated method so that backlogs could be cleared?

Were you, or to your knowledge anyone else, aware that the method could fail victims of crime by failing to recover DNA, or that it could result in police, courts, prosecutors and defence lawyers being misled about there being no DNA in samples when DNA in fact may have been present but missed?

Do you have any concerns that your name was inappropriately added to the Project 13 report, or that the report was somehow manipulated, prepared or tampered with by anyone other than the listed authors?

What role if any did Cathie Allen have in the validation of the automated method, and in preparing the Project 13 report?

To what extent were you under pressure from Queensland Health executives or any other parties to clear backlogs, and how did this affect your decision-making?

Why is the Project 13 report dated August 2008 when it relates to verification of a method that was introduced in October 2007?

Was the Project 13 report shared with the lab's scientists and other parties such as auditors and external reviewers. Why/why not?

Looking at the report now, do the contents of the report cause you concern?

Thank you for considering these issues, we look forward to hearing back from you.

Regards

David Murray and Hedley Thomas

--

DAVID MURRAY

National Crime Correspondent

Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006
GPO Box 130, Brisbane, QLD 4001

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Hot Issues Brief

Recent media interest in Forensic Science Queensland 1 September 2023

Issue

- On 31 August 2023, Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM, Chief Executive Officer, Forensic Science Queensland (FSQ), conducted two media interviews with journalists from two separate media publications:
 - the first interview was with two journalists from The Australian, Mr Hedley Thomas and Mr David Murray. It was a four-hour interview about various matters, largely centred around “Project 13”. This interview was also attended by Mr Walter Sofronoff KC and Ms Julie Dick SC, in their capacity as Co-Chairs of the FSQ Interim Advisory Board (and in Mr Sofronoff’s capacity as the former Commissioner of the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland (COI)).
 - The second interview was with Journalist James Hall from The Courier Mail. It was a two-hour interview and photo shoot with Professor Wilson-Wilde at the FSQ laboratory.
 - The interview was scheduled proactively by the Department of Health’s Strategic Communications Branch in an attempt to change the narrative in relation to FSQ in the media and to refocus attention on the positive changes that are occurring, in order to help start to rebuild public confidence in forensic testing in Queensland.
 - The interview covered topics including Professor Wilson-Wilde’s professional background, previous high profile case work, her assistance to the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland (COI), and the work and impact of the work currently being undertaken at FSQ.
 - It is likely that Mr Hall’s resulting article will be mostly positive, although it is expected to canvass the history of the DNA laboratory and the COI.
- Print media articles are expected to be published within the next few days as a result of these interviews.

Background

- Project 13 was a verification project conducted by the former DNA laboratory in 2008 to support the move from a manual to an automated method of DNA extraction. This automated process as implemented had significant contamination and DNA recovery (yield) issues, which were known at the time of implementation. Documents published as exhibits during the COI process show that implementation was nevertheless directed and approved by management at the time, although no direct approval documentation could be located.
- The Managing Scientist at the time was Ms Vanessa Ientile.
- The abstract in the validation report published in relation to Project 13 contains a statement which appears untrue, namely that the outcomes of the automated extraction method were comparable to those of the manual extraction method.

Prepared by: Jess Wellard
Position: Executive Director
Telephone: Irrelevant
Date: 01/09/2023

Approved by: Linzi Wilson-Wilde
Position: Chief Executive Officer
Telephone: Irrelevant
Date: 01/09/2023

- The issues with contamination required the automated extraction method to be ceased some months after implementation, until the issues were resolved later in 2008.
- There are no apparent records relating to further work on the issue regarding the DNA yield in Project 13.
- Professor Wilson-Wilde was commissioned during the COI to review the Project 13 validation and in particular comment on the contamination issue. She provided an expert opinion which outlined major flaws in the entirety of the project and noted that these flaws were largely rectified in a subsequent project that was conducted following the cessation of the automated method.
- Mr Thomas asked a number of questions indicating that he may be critical of what he sees as Professor Wilson-Wilde's failure to specifically reference the untrue statement in the abstract. While Professor Wilson-Wilde did not specifically call out the untrue statement, this was not within the scope of her instructions from the COI and she was critical of the validation project and report overall.
- All of these documents are publicly available on the COI website, including the Project 13 report and Professor Wilson-Wilde's expert opinion about Project 13.
- Mr Thomas and Mr Murray also asked questions indicating that they may make adverse comment about the authors of the report or may question why action has not been taken against the authors of the report (including suggesting that action should now be taken).
 - Two scientists who participated in Project 13 remain employed at FSQ, however FSQ has been able to confirm that neither was responsible for the untrue statement in the abstract of the report.

Irrelevant

- Professor Wilson-Wilde has spoken with the scientists involved who remain employed at FSQ and is confident that errors in the project do not create ongoing risks at FSQ given the passage of time and significant further training that has occurred since that time.
- Ms Lentile ceased working for Queensland Health in around 2008. Irrelevant
Irrelevant
Irrelevant As a courtesy, Professor Wilson-Wilde has contacted her to inform her of the likely media article. We are also aware that Mr Thomas and Mr Murray have contacted her directly for comment about Project 13.
- The COI final report covered the issues relating to Project 13 but did not make any findings about the staff involved in the project.
- The COI final report and documents related to Project 13 are publicly available and were provided to the Crime and Corruption Commission which is able to consider whether there was sufficient evidence of corrupt conduct by any current or former public sector employee.
- Mr Thomas is of the view that the low yields obtained in Project 13 was the "ground zero" for the failures that impacted the Blackburn testing in 2013. Professor Wilson-Wilde has informed him that this is not correct, and the issues identified in Project 13 were rectified in 2009, and in Projects 21 and 22. Other

unfortunate errors contributed to issues of potential contamination and low yield for the Blackburn samples in 2013.

- Attached is a media request from Mr Thomas to Ms Lentile, which provides an indication of his intended focus (Attachment 1).
- Also attached is generic case information regarding the impact of recent changes at FSQ, as requested by Mr Murray through the Strategic Communications Branch, which indicate that Mr Thomas is also likely to report on the increases in results which FSQ is obtaining from the improvements to laboratory practices.
- Mr Thomas has indicated that he may release a further podcast episode about Project 13.
- Searches have identified that Mr Thomas has also given at least two interviews this week that discussed Shandee Blackburn's case and the Commission of Inquiry.
 - In an interview on the morning television show *Sunrise*, Mr Thomas gave a short summary of the Blackburn case, coronial findings and what led to the Commission of Inquiry. Mr Thomas spoke highly of Dr Kirsty Wright and did not mention any FSQ staff or discuss the laboratory in any detail.
 - In an interview on 4BC's Drive radio program, Mr Thomas spoke to Peter Gleeson about a number of his previous investigations, including the Blackburn case. He spoke at length and highly about Dr Kirsty Wright. A quote on the 4BC website accompanying the interview was: "For many, many years, it has been badly failing with scientists in a lab that was bent, that was literally failing through, not just the incompetence, but the deliberate effective sabotaging of evidence..."
- Mr Thomas is releasing a book on the Chris Dawson matter in early October 2023, which was also mentioned in his recent interviews.

Actions to date

- FSQ has responded transparently to requests for interview and media comment and has acknowledged the previous failings at the DNA laboratory (which were highlighted in detail during the COI).

Media response

- ☒ A media holding statement is not required, however once the nature of the media publication is known, any necessary response from the department will be considered.

Confidential

- Recent case discussions relating to a Coronial matter have resulted in Professor Wilson-Wilde and Dr Duncan Taylor (forensic statistics expert from Forensic Science South Australia) expressing views to the Coroner about the appropriate testing in a case that directly contradicted the views of Dr Kirsty Wright. Dr Wright was present in this meeting and had been engaged by the Coroner previously to advise on the matter.
- Professor Wilson-Wilde spoke to the annual Coroner's Conference in late August 2023 about the importance of ensuring that external advice is sought from forensic scientists who hold current competencies and relevant experience in the processes they are advising about, and that external testing is only undertaken by accredited laboratories.

Contact person

Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde, CEO FSQ, **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:linzi.wilson-wilde@health.qld.gov.au),
Mobile **Irrelevant**

Theresa Stinson

From: Natarjsha Kramer
Sent: Saturday, 2 September 2023 9:24 AM
To: Shannon Fentiman
Cc: Amanda Medew
Subject: RADIO - DNA

DNA

- Linzi Wilson-Wilde has done an amazing job building a leadership team and attracting world-renowned scientists.
- We've made 33 offers of which 26 have been accepted. 3 managers were the first to attract the workforce incentive scheme.
- The work that has been undertaken to improve processes and case reviews is yielding amazing results and will continue to do so.
- We have invested \$95 million to ensure we have world-class forensic science services.

CASES BACKGROUND

Positive outcomes

2019 murder of pregnant Ipswich woman Kardell Lomas – new DNA evidence sees defendant plead guilty

Previous results – DNA profiles were assessed as coming from up to three people.

2023 Review: DNA profiles were reviewed using new interpretation guidelines, reducing the number of individuals assessed as contributing to the DNA. The new interpretation guidelines were based on recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry and additional changes implemented at the lab under new leadership.

A total of 10 DNA samples previously interpreted as coming from three people were reassessed as coming from two people; and a further two DNA profiles originally assessed as coming from two people were reassessed as coming from one person.

The previous guidelines contributed to overestimating the number of contributors to a DNA profile.

The new results led directly to the suspect then pleading guilty.

Traven Fisher was jailed for 14 years

2019 sexual assault

Previous result – no results linked to the suspect's DNA,

2023 review – samples sent to international forensic science leaders New Zealand for specialised DNA Y-STR testing (that targets DNA only on the Y chromosome) and obtained a link to the suspect.

Going through the courts.

2020 sexual assault

Previous result – while there were good results from some samples, the DNA from other samples was considered insufficient to generate a DNA profile.

2023 review - further processing of DNA previously considered insufficient obtained a mixed DNA profile with indications of two contributors, with a likelihood ratio of greater than 100 billion favouring contribution from the suspect's DNA.

Going through the courts.

Natarjsha Kramer

Senior Media Advisor

Office of the Hon. Shannon Fentiman MP

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services

Minister for Women



Queensland
Government

P: Irrelevant E: Irrelevant ministerial.qld.gov.au

Theresa Stinson

From: Linzi Wilson-Wilde **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 3 September 2023 1:56 PM
To: SDLO; Amanda Medew
Cc: Tracey Walker; Natarjsha Kramer; Olivia Amsden
Subject: RE: HIB - Forensic Science Queensland Media interviews
Attachments: Talking Points - Forensic Science queensland - 03-09-2023.doc

Importance: High

Please find attached the talking points.
I have put them under subheadings, so the AG can find a response more easily if asked a question.
I don't have information on additional case success stories, but may be able to get one in the morning, depending on the scientists. Have included summaries of the three already briefed.
Let me know if you need anything else.
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 **Irrelevant**
E **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au
W www.health.qld.gov.au
A [39 Kessels Road Coopers Plains Qld 4108](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/locations/39-kessels-road-coopers-plains-qld-4108)



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From: SDLO **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 3 September 2023 8:46 AM
To: Linzi Wilson-Wilde **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Amanda Medew **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Irrelevant @health.qld.gov.au>; Natarjsha Kramer **Irrelevant** ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Olivia Amsden **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: HIB - Forensic Science Queensland Media interviews

Good morning Linzi,,

I have attached an SDLO advice template that could assist, however the talking points can just be provided on a word document if easier.

If you wish to use the attached templates, you can remove the headings that are not required.

Regards,
Sabina



Sabina Mandic

A/Principal Briefing and Liaison Officer
Office of the Director-General and System Strategy
Division | Queensland Health

P Irrelevant
E Irrelevant @health.qld.gov.au
W health.qld.gov.au

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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From: Linzi Wilson-Wilde Irrelevant @health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 3 September 2023 8:21 AM
To: SDLO Irrelevant health.qld.gov.au>; Amanda Medew Irrelevant ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Tracey Walker Irrelevant @health.qld.gov.au>; Natarjsha Kramer Irrelevant @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Olivia Amsden Irrelevant @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: HIB - Forensic Science Queensland Media interviews
Importance: High

Can someone please confirm the format for the speaking notes for me please.
Thanks heaps, Linzi



Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Forensic Science Queensland
Queensland Health

Professor of Forensic Science
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A 39 Kessels Road Coopers Plains Qld 4108

Forensic Science Queensland



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From: SDLO Irrelevant health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 2 September 2023 8:40 AM
To: Amanda Medew Irrelevant @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Linzi Wilson-Wilde Irrelevant @health.qld.gov.au>; Tracey Walker Irrelevant @health.qld.gov.au>; Natarjsha Kramer Irrelevant ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Olivia Amsden Irrelevant @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: HIB - Forensic Science Queensland Media interviews

Good morning Amanda,

Confirming that we have received your email. Linzi Wilson-Wilde is looking at it now and will progress the requested talking points as soon as possible this weekend.

Regards,
Sabina



Sabina Mandic

A/Principal Briefing and Liaison Officer
Office of the Director-General and System Strategy
Division | Queensland Health

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W health.qld.gov.au



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From: Amanda Medew Irrelevant @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 2 September 2023 8:24 AM
To: SDLO Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Linzi Wilson-Wilde Irrelevant health.qld.gov.au>; Tracey Walker Irrelevant health.qld.gov.au>; Natarjsha Kramer Irrelevant @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Olivia Amsden Irrelevant @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
B - Forensic Science Queensland Media interviews

This email originated from outside Queensland Health. DO NOT click on any links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for this.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/shandee-blackburns-victory-killers-and-rapists-nabbed-in-queensland-dna-lab-turnaround/news-story/2e8ae439924800da76e9f7288d6dcd2c>

Can we have talking points sent through covering any questions Minister may be asked about the article at her stand up on Monday morning. Please include any further positive results that she could highlight.

Given the presser is at 930 Monday, would appreciate if we could receive it over the weekend.

Many thanks,

Amanda Medew
Senior Policy Advisor

Office of the Hon. Shannon Fentiman MP

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services
Minister for Women



Queensland
Government

P Irrelevant E: Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au

From: SDLO Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 6:37 PM

To: Alex Mayfield Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Amanda Medew Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au>;

Amy Goodwin Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Amy Louise Melville Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Ben

Armstrong Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Brett Reed Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Claire Daly

Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; CLLO Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Denise Spokes

Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; DG correspondence Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; DL-

ELT Personal Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Estimates Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Finn Semple

Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Hamish Swanson Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Jacqueline

Ouige Irrelevant@ambulance.qld.gov.au>; James Farrell Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Jess Burns

Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Julie Shilton-Bev Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Kyle Fogarty

Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Luke Richmond Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Madeline Cunnington

Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Mark Gibh Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Melleesa Cowie

Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Michael Walsh Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Michaela Edwards

Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Miranda Claughton <Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>;

Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; news Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Nick Steele

Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Olivia Amsden Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Phoenix Campbell

Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Rachel Western Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Renaie

Tesch Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Sabina Mandic Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Sally Gannon

Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Stephen Stewar Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Tracey Walker

Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>; Trish Nielsen Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>

Subject: HIB - Forensic Science Queensland Media interviews

Good evening,

Please find attached a Hot Issues Brief (HIB) prepared by Forensic Science Queensland in relation recent media interviews undertaken by Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM, Chief Executive Officer, Forensic Science Queensland (FSQ).

The HIB was prepared noting that further media articles may be published post interviews.

Regards,
Sabina



Queensland
Government

Sabina Mandic

A/Principal Briefing and Liaison Officer
Office of the Director-General and System Strategy
Division | Queensland Health

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W Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au





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< Request:

- <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/shandee-blackburns-victory-killers-and-rapists-nabbed-in-queensland-dna-lab-turnaround/news-story/2e8ae439924800da76e9f7288d6dcd2c>
- Can we have talking points sent through covering any questions Minister may be asked about the article at her stand up on Monday morning.
- Please include any further positive results that she could highlight

TALKING POINTS

TITLE: Forensic Science Queensland

General

1. The Palaszczuk Government is committed to reforming Queensland's DNA and forensic services, and work on short and long-term reforms is progressing well.
2. We have accepted all 126 recommendations in both the Interim and Final Reports of the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland.
3. We are also investing \$95 million to reform DNA services.
4. We have a newly established Forensic Science Queensland led by eminent scientist Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM.
5. An interim Advisory Board is providing oversight of forensic DNA operations and future reforms, with Walter Sofronoff KC and Julie Dick SC as co-chairs.
6. The Board is also supported by a Forensic Justice Advisory Sub-Committee, a Forensic Biology Advisory Sub-Committee, and a Forensic Medical Examinations Advisory Sub-Committee.
7. Queensland Health remains committed to openness and transparency.
8. 33 recommendations from the COI Final Report are now complete, and 57 further recommendations are in progress. This represents a significant amount of work being conducted over the past few months, supported by the Queensland government.

FSQ Reforms

9. We have announced the recruitment of a number of leading scientists into key management roles, such as Manager Biology, Manager Innovation and Manager Quality, who will work with Professor Wilson-Wilde to implement the COI recommendations and improve the forensic services provided by the laboratory.
10. All COI recommendations that required the immediate cessation of a current process or practice have been completed.
11. Extensive training of scientists has been undertaken and a new DNA interpretation guideline has been introduced.
12. In addition, there has been numerous changes to improve methods and processes beyond the work strictly required by the COI recommendations.
13. Professor Wilson-Wilde and her team are continuing to improve the forensic services and I know Professor Wilson-Wilde and the government are intent on making Forensic Science Queensland a world leading laboratory.

Impact of Reforms on Casework

14. Forensic Science Queensland has been experiencing a significant backlog of work which largely represents DNA samples within cases that are subject to active court proceedings or criminal investigation by the Queensland Police Service.
15. The number of cases that require review is significant and will impact a number of cases currently before the Courts.
16. Work is underway to address this backlog of business-as-usual testing and minimise the impact to cases currently before the courts. A dedicated recruitment team has been stood up to engage more scientists as well as corporate, IT and other support staff.
17. A large-scale recruitment drive has been underway and is continuing. I am advised that 27 offers have been made to external scientists, of which 22 have been accepted. The new scientists have either commenced or are in the process of commencing over the coming months. However, the ability to recruit is impacted by the limited pool of

suitably qualified scientists. However, as I mentioned previously, 3 eminent scientists have recently commenced in leadership positions.

18. Forensic Science Queensland is also working with overseas laboratories in the United Kingdom and forensic biologists in Australia to assist in addressing the backlog.
19. Some forms of ad hoc DNA analysis are already being contracted out to assist with the current backlog, including use of the Environmental Science and Research Institute in New Zealand to conduct 'Y-STR' analysis and use of the Australian Federal Police's DNA systems to perform DNA analysis on bone samples.
20. It is important to note that the improvements to the forensic DNA analysis methods are producing better results and more results. This is having a significant impact on the resolution of crimes and support for the victims.
21. The laboratory reforms are likely to take 2-3 years, but in compliance with good scientific practice, Forensic Science Queensland will continue to improve their services as part of a continuous improvement model. This is to ensure Queensland continues to have the best possible forensic service for the Queensland criminal justice system and the community.

Historical Case Review

22. Forensic Science Queensland continues to work with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Queensland Police Service to prioritise the re-testing of matters.
23. Prioritisation is being given to cases that have the most imminent upcoming scheduled court dates that are set for a court proceeding, or for active police investigations. Additional priority is attributed to those cases involving a defendant who is in some form of custody.
24. The historical case review process will commence once Forensic Science Queensland has increased its capacity to do so.
25. The review process involves a collaborative approach between Forensic Science Queensland, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Queensland Police Service and, where relevant, defence representatives. The purpose of this collaboration is to determine which samples the legal parties intend to lead or contest at trial. This enables

Forensic Science Queensland to optimise the use of resources for sample review.

26. It is important to note that many of these cases are unlikely to depend on DNA evidence.
27. The review of the large number of cases is likely to take a number of years, however the exact timeframe is unknown until the review is further underway.

Case Highlights (reported in the media)

28. In the 2019 murder of pregnant Ipswich woman Kardell Lomas, previous DNA profiles were assessed as coming from up to three people. In the 2023 review the DNA profiles were reviewed using new interpretation guidelines, reducing the number of individuals assessed as contributing to the DNA. The new results strengthened the evidence against the suspect who pled guilty after he was advised of the results of the retesting. Traven Fisher was jailed for 14 years.
29. In a 2019 sexual assault, the previous results indicated no links to the suspect's DNA. In the 2023 review, samples were sent to international forensic science leaders New Zealand for specialised DNA Y-STR testing (that targets DNA only on the Y chromosome) and obtained a link to the suspect. The case is currently going through the courts.
30. In a 2020 sexual assault, the previous results, while good from some samples, in other samples were insufficient to generate a DNA profile. In the 2023 review further analysis was undertaken and a mixed DNA profile with indications of two contributors, was obtained. The new results linked to the suspect. The case is currently going through the courts.

Theresa Stinson

From: Natarjsha Kramer
Sent: Wednesday, 6 September 2023 11:31 AM
To: 'Tracey Walker'; Amanda Medew
Cc: Damon Guppy
Subject: RE: FINAL! URGENT: Follow up from The Australian

Hey,

Sorry – bit of back and fourth.

Can I just check what the proposed response is being sent?

From: Tracey Walker **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 9:55 AM
To: Amanda Medew **Irrelevant** ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Natarjsha Kramer **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Damon Guppy **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FINAL! URGENT: Follow up from The Australian

Hi Amanda and Nat

Are you happy with the below information to go to David Murray at The Australian?

Kind regards

Tracey



Tracey Walker
Executive Director
Strategic Communications Branch
Queensland Health

P **Irrelevant**
E **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au
W health.qld.gov.au

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From: Linzi Wilson-Wilde **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:linzi.wilson-wilde@health.qld.gov.au)>
Sent: Tuesday, 5 September 2023 6:55 PM
To: Tracey Walker **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:tracey.walker@health.qld.gov.au)>; Natarjsha Kramer **Irrelevant** [@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:natarjsha.kramer@ministerial.qld.gov.au)>; Amanda Medew **Irrelevant** [@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:amanda.medew@ministerial.qld.gov.au)>
Cc: Jess Wellard **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:jess.wellard@health.qld.gov.au)>; Damon Guppy **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:damon.guppy@health.qld.gov.au)>; Aaron Suthers **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:aaron.suthers@health.qld.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: FINAL! URGENT: Follow up from The Australian

Below text approved.
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 **Irrelevant**
E **Irrelevant** [health.qld.gov.au](mailto:linzi.wilson-wilde@health.qld.gov.au)
W www.health.qld.gov.au
A [39 Kessels Road Coopers Plains Qld 4108](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/locations/39-Kessels-Road-Coopers-Plains-Qld-4108)

Forensic Science Queensland



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From: Tracey Walker **Irrelevant** [health.qld.gov.au](mailto:tracey.walker@health.qld.gov.au)>
Sent: Tuesday, 5 September 2023 6:24 PM
To: Natarjsha Kramer **Irrelevant** [@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:natarjsha.kramer@ministerial.qld.gov.au)>; Amanda Medew **Irrelevant** [@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:amanda.medew@ministerial.qld.gov.au)>
Cc: Jess Wellard **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:jess.wellard@health.qld.gov.au)>; Damon Guppy **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:damon.guppy@health.qld.gov.au)>; Aaron Suthers **Irrelevant** [health.qld.gov.au](mailto:aaron.suthers@health.qld.gov.au)>; Linzi Wilson-Wilde **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:linzi.wilson-wilde@health.qld.gov.au)>
Subject: FINAL! URGENT: Follow up from The Australian

Good evening

Apologies - this is the final! I left in one of duplicated lines in the previous!

Cheers Tracey

Please attribute the following to Prof Linzi Wilson-Wilde:

Our primary focus is to reform our forensic DNA testing services.

Multiple issues within the previous Forensic and Scientific Services (FSS) laboratory date back several years, at least to the period that formed the focus of the Commission of Inquiry.

There is an interim (not final) report that looks at the efficacy of the 2009 DNA extraction method.

The interim report covering the validation of the 2009 method indicates higher levels of DNA results obtained, however, very importantly, a different method was used to generate the data and there are flaws in the data analysis, therefore I do not recommend a direct comparison to Project 13 results.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) documents for the 2007 and 2009 methods are attached and are also on the COI website. The SOPs demonstrate the difference between the two methods implemented.

The Commission of Inquiry had a wide latitude to investigate where they saw fit.

I am committed to reviewing unsolved major crime cases previously progressed through the FSS laboratory between 1 October 2007 and 31 December 2011.

Our immediate focus is on improving our existing systems to ensure the highest quality results are obtained and analysed for the courts in the clearest possible way.

Initially, it was estimated that approximately 30,000 cases – and 140,000 samples – required review as a result of the Commission of Inquiry.

However, factors including the overlap of case categories outlined in the Inquiry's final report and the adoption of a legal-led review process is likely to significantly lower the number of cases needing review.

The review includes all cases covered in the identified COI categories including major crimes such as sexual assault, murder, assault, robbery and other serious offences.

Background:

The following categories of cases/samples have been identified for review:

Category 1 – Priority 1 and Priority 2 (Major Crime) cases that include samples reported as 'DNA insufficient for further processing' since 1 January 2018.

Category 2 – Priority 1 and Priority 2 (Major Crime) cases since 1 January 2012 that did not receive holistic case management. In order to ascertain this population, the process adopted in each individual case needs to be considered (a data report cannot be run to identify this population). Note that the population of this category will be partly subsumed by category 1 from 1 January 2018.

Category 3 – Any samples that fall within the original QuantTrio limit of detection (0.001ng/ul) and the newly established limit of detection (which, as a guide for scientific decision-making for cases other than P1 cases and major crime (P2) cases, is 0.0006ng/ul).

Category 4 – Sexual assault cases received since 1 January 2017 which did not undergo Y-STR testing. In order to identify the number of cases/samples which fall within this category, each case must be individually considered. Note that this population will also be covered by Category 2, and partly by Category 1.

Category 5 – Sexual assault cases processed between 1 January 2008 and 8 August 2016 where spermatozoa was not identified on the slides and further testing was not performed. Note that from 1 January 2012, this population of cases will also be covered by Category 2.

Category 6 – All results of SAIK swabs between 13 December 2021 and 13 December 2022 which were reported as having originated from 3 or more persons. Note that this population of cases will also be covered by Category 2, and will also include cases included in Category 4.

Category 7 – Any samples from the MultiProbe II instrument where positive control extraction batches indicate that the extraction method was performing sub-optimally, and where there is utility in re-testing or re-analysing samples.

Category 8 – Outside of the COI recommendations, but also requiring review, are other populations of cases that have been identified within FSQ. This list may be expanded as necessary to ensure that all necessary cases are reviewed. At the present time, this category consists of all unsolved major crime (P2) cases between 1 October 2007 and 31 December 2011.

Tracey



Tracey Walker

Executive Director
Strategic Communications Branch
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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.



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From: Linzi Wilson-Wilde Irrelevant health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 5 September 2023 6:04 PM
To: Tracey Walker Irrelevant [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:health.qld.gov.au)>
Cc: Jess Wellard Irrelevant [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:health.qld.gov.au)>; Damon Guppy Irrelevant [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:health.qld.gov.au)>; Natarjsha Kramer Irrelevant [@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:ministerial.qld.gov.au)>; Amanda Medew Irrelevant [@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:ministerial.qld.gov.au)>; Aaron Suthers Irrelevant [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:health.qld.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: URGENT: Follow up from The Australian

Dear All,
Please find below with changes.
All the best, Linzi



Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM PhD

Chief Executive Officer
Forensic Science Queensland
Queensland Health

Professor of Forensic Science
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Forensic Science Queensland



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From: Tracey Walker **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au)>
Sent: Tuesday, 5 September 2023 5:50 PM
To: Linzi Wilson-Wilde **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au)>
Cc: Jess Wellard **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au)>; Damon Guppy **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au)>; Natarjsha Kramer **Irrelevant** [@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au)>; Amanda Medew **Irrelevant** [@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:Irrelevant@ministerial.qld.gov.au)>
Subject: URGENT: Follow up from The Australian

Hi Linzi

**This is where we are at with the response at the moment.
Over to you.**

Nat – please take a look, particularly the yellow highlight as this may lock us in but would be good to commit to as it is pretty necessary.

We can give this to David Murray tomorrow morning. He is getting close to deadline.

Please attribute the following to Prof Linzi Wilson-Wilde:

Our primary focus is to reform our forensic DNA testing services.

Multiple issues within the previous Forensic and Scientific Services (FSS) laboratory date back several years, at least to the period that formed the focus of the Commission of Inquiry.

There is an interim (not final) report that looks at the efficacy of the 2009 DNA extraction method. The problem is that the data was generated via a different mechanism and the data analysis is flawed, therefore it is not comparable to the Project 13 results.

Standard Operating Procedure documents for the 2007 and 2009 methods are attached and are also on the COI website. The SOPs demonstrate the difference between the two methods implemented.

The validation (interim report) of the 2009 method indicates higher levels of DNA results obtained, however, very importantly, a different method was used to generate the data and there are flaws in the data analysis, therefore I do not recommend a direct comparison to Project 13 results.

The Commission of Inquiry had a wide latitude to investigate where they saw fit.

I am committed to reviewing unsolved major crime cases previously progressed through the FSS laboratory between 1 October 2007 and 31 December 2011.

Our immediate focus is on improving our existing systems to ensure the highest quality results are obtained and analysed for the courts in the clearest possible way.

Initially, it was estimated that approximately 30,000 cases – and 140,000 samples – required review as a result of the Commission of Inquiry.

However, factors including the overlap of case categories outlined in the Inquiry's final report and the adoption of a legal-led review process is likely to significantly lower the number of cases needing review.

The review includes all cases covered in the identified COI categories including major crimes such as sexual assault, murder, assault, robbery and other serious offences.

Background:

The following categories of cases/samples have been identified for review:

Category 1 – Priority 1 and Priority 2 (Major Crime) cases that include samples reported as ‘DNA insufficient for further processing’ since 1 January 2018.

Category 2 – Priority 1 and Priority 2 (Major Crime) cases since 1 January 2012 that did not receive holistic case management. In order to ascertain this population, the process adopted in each individual case needs to be considered (a data report cannot be run to identify this population). Note that the population of this category will be partly subsumed by category 1 from 1 January 2018.

Category 3 – Any samples that fall within the original QuantTrio limit of detection (0.001ng/ul) and the newly established limit of detection (which, as a guide for scientific decision-making for cases other than P1 cases and major crime (P2) cases, is 0.0006ng/ul).

Category 4 – Sexual assault cases received since 1 January 2017 which did not undergo Y-STR testing. In order to identify the number of cases/samples which fall within this category, each case must be individually considered. Note that this population will also be covered by Category 2, and partly by Category 1.

Category 5 – Sexual assault cases processed between 1 January 2008 and 8 August 2016 where spermatozoa was not identified on the slides and further testing was not performed. Note that from 1 January 2012, this population of cases will also be covered by Category 2.

Category 6 – All results of SAIK swabs between 13 December 2021 and 13 December 2022 which were reported as having originated from 3 or more persons. Note that this population of cases will also be covered by Category 2, and will also include cases included in Category 4.

Category 7 – Any samples from the MultiProbe II instrument where positive control extraction batches indicate that the extraction method was performing sub-optimally, and where there is utility in re-testing or re-analysing samples.

Category 8 – Outside of the COI recommendations, but also requiring review, are other populations of cases that have been identified within FSQ. This list may be expanded as necessary to ensure that all necessary cases are reviewed. At the present time, this category consists of all unsolved major crime (P2) cases between 1 October 2007 and 31 December 2011.

ENDS

From: Tracey Walker **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:tracey.walker@health.qld.gov.au)>
Sent: Monday, 4 September 2023 3:56 PM
To: Linzi Wilson-Wilde **Irrelevant** [@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:linzi.wilson-wilde@health.qld.gov.au)>
Cc: Natarjsha Kramer **Irrelevant** [@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:natarjsha.kramer@ministerial.qld.gov.au)>; Damon Guppy **Irrelevant** [health.qld.gov.au](mailto:damon.guppy@health.qld.gov.au)>
Subject: Follow up from The Australian

Hi Linzi

David Murray of The Australian (and podcast with Hedley) has asked for information around items mentioned in the interview last week. He is following up the info he believed we were going to come back with:

1. Are there documents with data to show the system was improved in 2008 ie better than the 92% less DNA detected in the automated system introduced in 2007?

The Commission of Inquiry dealt with this issue in some detail, and documents are available on its website and in the COI final report. Two additional documents have been attached which demonstrate the difference in method between the automated process in 2007 and the replacement process in 2009. While this may have partly addressed the issue of the DNA yield and confirms that the 2007 process was only in place for a fortunately limited period; there are broader concerns about just about every method validation/verification conducted by the laboratory previously and how these methods have been implemented.

It has been problematic to easily identify the final report on the process implemented at that time. Further documents may be available, however will divert a lot of scientist time to identify. Reviewing a process from 2007 that is known to have been flawed cannot be a current priority for the laboratory. The current focus within FSQ is on improving our current systems to ensure the highest possible quality results are obtained and analysed for the courts in the clearest possible way.

What is clear is that there were multiple issues within the FSS laboratory since at least the mid-2000s which impacted a number of processes and the resulting analysis of DNA samples. Professor Wilson-Wilde has not identified a single issue or project that caused all the resulting issues, but rather the repeated adoption of poor scientific methodology, poor validations, incorrect analysis and skewed decision-making that was not focused on sound quality management principles, which contributed to the laboratory potentially missing DNA evidence for over 15 years. The Commission of Inquiry also reached this view.

With the assistance of expert forensic Managers who have recently been appointed, Professor Wilson-Wilde is undertaking detailed analysis and testing of all FSQ processes as well as benchmarking against other laboratories where possible to ensure that the best possible yields and results are obtained from all evidence which is extracted and analysed within the laboratory. This goes beyond the requirements of the COI, but is critical to ensuring that Queensland can have confidence in the ability of its forensic laboratory to deliver services.

In addition, FSQ is focused on rectifying the impacts of these poor processes rather than further exploring the causes. Subject to Forensic Justice Advisory Sub-Committee endorsement, FSQ is proposing that the case review process goes beyond what is required within the Commission of Inquiry recommendations and that FSQ work with the QPS to review the DNA evidence on all unsolved major crime (P2) cases progressed at the FSS laboratory between 1 October 2007 and 31 December 2011. From 1 January 2012, all P2 cases are already identified for review in accordance with recommendation 13 of the COI final report. If approved, this additional review will progress as resources permit, but key cases can be escalated in priority by the QPS.

Separately, FSQ has put in place significant governance around projects, validations, expert external review and decision-making. These steps will ensure that these issues, errors and poor judgment are never repeated.

2. Can we clarify which cases are being reviewed? His understanding is that there are 30,000 cases to be reviewed; what numbers are reviewed, solved, closed?

It is difficult for FSQ to quantify the exact number of cases to be reviewed in the manner requested. This is because FSQ undertakes DNA tests on request of the QPS, and does not hold data on whether these cases are solved, have progressed through the court system, or are still before the courts.

Due to the volume of cases to be reviewed, the focus has been on progressing the review of cases as quickly as possible to minimise impacts on current court processes. This approach means that the final number of cases which are reviewed (or which do require review under the below categories) may not be able to be established until each category has been worked through case by case.

The original estimate was that approximately 30,000 cases (140,000 samples) required review. Due to the overlap between categories as outlined in the COI final report, it is not a simple mathematical exercise to determine the number of cases/samples. Further, due to the adoption of a legal-led review process

(discussed further below), the exact number of cases which need to be reviewed by scientists is expected to be lower.

The following categories of cases/samples have been identified for review:

Category 1 - Priority 1 and Priority 2 (Major Crime) cases that include samples reported as 'DNA insufficient for further processing' since 1 January 2018.

Category 2 - Priority 1 and Priority 2 (Major Crime) cases since 1 January 2012 that did not receive holistic case management. In order to ascertain this population, the process adopted in each individual case needs to be considered (a data report cannot be run to identify this population). Note that the population of this category will be partly subsumed by category 1 from 1 January 2018.

Category 3 - Any samples that fall within the original QuantTrio limit of detection (0.001ng/ul) and the newly established limit of detection (which, as a guide for scientific decision-making for cases other than P1 cases and major crime (P2) cases, is 0.0006ng/ul). As the new limit of detection has only recently been confirmed, the number of cases/samples that fall within this population and the extent to which these are cases/samples that do not also fall within other categories for review has not been determined.

Category 4 – Sexual assault cases received since 1 January 2017 which did not undergo Y-STR testing. In order to identify the number of cases/samples which fall within this category, each case must be individually considered. Note that this population will also be covered by Category 2, and partly by Category 1.

Category 5 – Sexual assault cases processed between 1 January 2008 and 8 August 2016 where spermatozoa was not identified on the slides and further testing was not performed. Note that from 1 January 2012, this population of cases will also be covered by Category 2.

Category 6 – All results of SAIK swabs between 13 December 2021 and 13 December 2022 which were reported as having originated from 3 or more persons. Note that this population of cases will also be covered by Category 2, and will also include cases included in Category 4.

Category 7 – Any samples from the MultiProbe II instrument where positive control extraction batches indicate that the extraction method was performing sub-optimally, and where there is utility in re-testing or re-analysing samples. Work is still underway to identify any samples which fall within this category, however this work is lower priority as the other categories (particularly Category 2) will largely subsume this category.

Category 8 – Outside of the COI recommendations, but also requiring review, are other populations of cases that have been identified within FSQ. This list may be expanded as necessary to ensure that all necessary cases are reviewed. At the present time, this category consists of all unsolved major crime (P2) cases between 1 October 2007 and 31 December 2011.

To ensure that all cases which may require reconsideration are reviewed, where not otherwise established by the COI final report, the 'end point' up to which cases which were previously analysed and reported by FSQ will be reviewed has been set at 1 May 2023. This is the point at which the new interpretation guidelines had been drafted, implemented and all FSQ reporting scientists trained in the new approach and were considering the suitability of Y-STR testing. This is a cautious approach aimed at ensuring that no cases are missed.

Due to the volume of cases, an approach has been approved by the Forensic Justice Advisory Sub-Committee (with members from the QPS, ODPP, Legal Aid, private lawyers and victims representatives) that reflects the limited number of qualified reporting scientists and the tensions this causes with FSQ also progressing business-as-usual caseloads. This approach is being referred to as a 'Legal led' process. Before current or historical court cases are allocated for scientific review, the cases will first be confirmed as requiring review by the relevant parties to the case. This may be the ODPP or QPS who brought the prosecution (and who have ongoing obligations as officers of the court in relation to evidence presented), and the private lawyers or Legal Aid lawyers who represented the defence. If the matter was resolved on

the basis of other evidence, and all parties agree with this, then the DNA results that were presented at the time (even if not the best available evidence) would not have impacted the outcome and therefore it would be unnecessary to conduct a full scientific review. These cases will instead be recorded as having fallen within the categories of cases which could be reviewed, but a review will not be conducted unless it is specifically requested in the future. A similar approach is being adopted with regard to QPS investigations that did not progress through the courts, with the QPS to determine whether a scientific review of the DNA evidence may assist to progress the case.

All stakeholders have agreed that this strikes the balance to allow the focusing of limited scientific resources on those cases where the DNA evidence was or may be impactful on the outcomes, as well as ensuring that FSQ can progress cases as required to meet the current needs of the criminal justice system. As part of this process, a formal mechanism is being established so that any party can request a review of a matter and this review will be undertaken.

3. It is a little unclear if only sexual assault cases going back to 2008 are being reviewed. Is it just sexual assault cases? What about murder, robbery etc? Can he have information around what is being reviewed?

As noted above, major crime cases going back to 2012 are being reviewed (Category 2), as well as cases which fall within other categories. Some of these categories cover cases that go back before 2012. However, until each case is individually looked at, exact numbers of cases that fall within each category or cannot be established. Further, as noted above, there is little utility in reviewing cases which were resolved before the courts on other evidence and which are not being questioned. Cases which pre-date 2012 but which justify review, or for which a review is requested, will be reviewed.

4. Walter said 10,000 cases were added to the backlog during the time of the inquiry. Is that correct? Is that number part of the 30,000?

This is believed to be a reference to the impacts that the Commission of Inquiry had on the conduct of business-as-usual processes at the then-FSS laboratory. Due to impacts including ceasing or changing processes during the Inquiry, the impacts that resulted from the three senior managers being stood down, and other impacts on staff including the need to respond to information requests, provide statements or give evidence, and the obvious stress of the Inquiry, the work of the laboratory significantly slowed during this period. At the time Professor Wilson-Wilde commenced in January 2023, there was a business-as-usual backlog of approximately 10,000 samples (around 6,000 cases). As various process changes have been implemented and recruitment was necessary to replace key staff members, this backlog has increased over the past 8 months to approximately 17,000 samples (10,000 cases). The increase has now been largely arrested and due to various measures that have been adopted we expect to see this backlog gradually decline from here. The decline will not be a swift one as the backlog is largely at the case interpretation/reporting stage, and there are a limited number of qualified case reporting scientists available and recent recruitment efforts to identify new qualified reporting scientists who are willing to relocate to Brisbane have not been as successful as hoped.

Note that these 'backlog' cases are separate to the 'case review' population. The 'backlog' cases are those which have not yet been analysed and reported, whereas the 'case review' cases are those which were previously analysed and reported, and now have to be reviewed.

For context, it is estimated that previous to the COI, the FSS laboratory generally had a business-as-usual workload of around 2,000-2,500 cases.

I will give you a call. Looking at getting drafts to the answers by about 3pm tomorrow if that is possible.

Damon Guppy in the media team is helping on this topic now as well so I have cc'd him in.

Below for your convenience are all the media on the topic since Sat.

- **The Australian:** [Editorial – Failings in Qld DNA lab](#)

Less than two years after a podcast investigation by The Australian's Hedley Thomas into the 2013 murder of Shandee Blackburn, 23, in Mackay on the central Queensland coast uncovered failings in the state's forensic laboratory, the consequences of those failings are finally being addressed.

- **4BC Radio:** [DNA changes in Queensland being hailed a success](#)
A backlog of more than 10,000 cases is slowly being cleared after a Commission of Inquiry revealed major failings in previous testing methods.
- **4BC Radio:** [Interview with the Minister for Health on COVID-19 and DNA testing](#)
Consultation will occur prior to any decision being made on removing the COVID-19 vaccination requirement for staff. Separately, changes to Queensland's DNA testing lab are showing positive results.
- **The Australian:** [Shandee's victory: killer, rapists caught after DNA lab overhaul](#)
The slaying of a pregnant woman, whose body was stuffed by her killer into the boot of a car, is one of several serious crimes in Queensland resolved as a direct result of huge reforms to the state's DNA testing lab.

Thank you

Tracey



Tracey Walker
Executive Director
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Theresa Stinson

From: Amanda Medew
Sent: Wednesday, 6 September 2023 4:30 PM
To: Linzi Wilson-Wilde; Tracey Walker; Jess Wellard
Cc: Natarjsha Kramer; Chief Executive Officer Forensic Science QLD
Subject: RE: FINAL - Follow up from The Australian

Thanks all. Looks good.

From: Linzi Wilson-Wilde **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 4:27 PM
To: Tracey Walker **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Jess Wellard **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Natarjsha Kramer **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Amanda Medew **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Chief Executive Officer Forensic Science QLD **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FINAL - Follow up from The Australian
Importance: High

Here you go – some small, but important changes – to make it technically correct.
All the best, Linzi



Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM PhD
Chief Executive Officer
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From: Tracey Walker **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 6 September 2023 3:33 PM
To: Linzi Wilson-Wilde **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>; Jess Wellard **Irrelevant** @health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Natarjsha Kramer **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Amanda Medew **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FINAL - Follow up from The Australian

Please attribute the following to Prof Linzi Wilson-Wilde:

I am focused on reforming forensic DNA testing services at FSQ, while also developing processes to review historical cases.

My immediate focus is on improving our existing systems to ensure the highest quality results are obtained and analysed for the courts in the **clearest possible way**.

There is no report that specifically compares the 2007 and 2009 DNA extraction methods, however I am committed to reviewing unsolved major crime cases previously progressed through the FSS laboratory between 1 October 2007 and 31 December 2011.

There is a draft interim report **for the 2009 method** that indicates a DNA yield that is comparable with the expected yield, however, we have identified issues with the **analysis** of the **data** and these results **also** cannot be compared to the Project 13 results.

We have set up processes to review the major crime cases between 1 October 2007 and 31 December 2011 and if DNA yield was a problem, we will look at retesting, if it could make a difference to the outcome of the case.

Under the Commission of Inquiry recommendations we are also looking at all sexual assault cases from 2008 to 2012 and all major crimes from 2012.

Our review includes all cases covered in the identified COI categories including major crimes such as sexual assault, murder, assault, robbery and other serious offences where issues are identified.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) documents for the 2007 and 2009 methods are attached and are also on the COI website. The SOPs demonstrate the difference between the two methods implemented.

The Commission of Inquiry had a wide latitude to investigate where they saw fit.

Initially, it was estimated that approximately 30,000 cases required review as a result of the Commission of Inquiry.

However, factors including the overlap of case categories outlined in the Inquiry's final report and the adoption of a legal-led review process is likely to significantly lower the number of cases needing review.

Kind regards

Tracey



Tracey Walker

Executive Director

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HEALTHQ32

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Theresa Stinson

From: Amanda Medew
Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 11:04 AM
To: Natarjsha Kramer
Subject: QAs First Progress Report - Delivery of recommendations Col Forensic DNA Testing _v2.docx
Attachments: QAs First Progress Report - Delivery of recommendations Col Forensic DNA Testing _v2.docx

Q&A – FORENSIC DNA PROGRESS REPORT

How is the Queensland Government tracking in implementing the recommendations made by the final report of the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland?

The Commission of Inquiry's final report made 123 recommendations. Of these, 33 have been completed and a further 57 are underway. This means 73 per cent of all recommendations are either completed or active steps are being taken to implement the recommendation.

To guide implementation, recommendations have been grouped into four focus areas or elements:

1. Organisational reform
2. Culture, quality and innovation
3. Scientific service delivery
4. Historical case review

These elements represent focus areas and do not imply priority in terms of the implementation of recommendations.

What are the main recommendations that have been completed?

The most important recommendation to act on was to cease the practice of using a quantitation threshold, known as the 'DNA insufficient for further processing' threshold, that stopped the further processing of samples.

We also immediately ceased reporting samples as 'No DNA detected' until such time as we had properly validated the true limit of detection. These steps were taken immediately following receipt of the final report's recommendations.

Other key reforms implemented include:

- the establishment of Forensic Science Queensland (FSQ), an interim advisory board and three expert sub-committees to strengthen the quality and scientific integrity of Queensland's forensic biology and forensic chemistry services;
- appointments to key leadership positions within FSQ including Chief Executive Officer Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM and managers for each of the Innovation, Quality and Biology teams, and the creation of an FSQ leadership group;
- the creation of a Case Review Team to support FSQ in prioritising the review of cases, including liaising with key criminal justice system stakeholders;
- the introduction of a dedicated Quality Team to drive best practice and oversee the process for identification and resolution of quality issues;
- the introduction of a new Innovation Team to establish a strong research function to ensure the laboratory remains contemporary in terms of scientifically valid service delivery;
- updating and validating the contents of new Forensic Medical Examination Kits to replace the previous Sexual Assault Investigation Kits and Just in Case Kits.

Q&A – FORENSIC DNA PROGRESS REPORT

- agreement between FSQ and the Queensland Police Service regarding the sharing of information within the Forensic Register, including case records, including examination notes, photographs, exhibit records and case management entries; and
- an agreement with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to conduct bone sample DNA analysis for Queensland at no initial cost.

What recommendations are underway?

A recommendation was made within the final report that sufficient investment to support the implementation of the recommendations would be necessary from the Queensland Government. In response, this Government committed more than \$95 million in December 2022 soon after the final report was released.

A large-scale recruitment drive is underway to source scientists to staff FSQ and help implement recommendations relating to scientific processes.

The remaining recommendations focus on long-term reform and are dependent on legislative reform and progress of other recommendations.

The report also highlights future focus areas including:

- renewing forensic science infrastructure;
- enhancing information technology platforms;
- managing current criminal justice system impacts; and
- strengthening the quality and scientific integrity of forensic services.

It has been eight months. Why hasn't the government at least commenced the remaining recommendations?

Completing or taking active steps toward implementing 73 per cent of the Commissioner's recommendations is excellent progress.

Some of the 33 recommendations yet to be addressed are dependent on legislative reform and the progress of other recommendations.

The initial focus has been on implementing recommendations to establish interim scientific leadership and appropriate organisational structures and arrangements to accommodate the attributes we want in a forensic DNA service – integrity, transparency, accountability and quality.

We have also prioritised building a suitably skilled workforce and implementing processes that will ensure forensic DNA samples are tested to the highest standards. 22 new scientists have been recruited to join FSQ to date, but 10 are still to commence.

These actions are a pre-requisite for the implementation of several other recommendations, particularly those relating to laboratory processes and procedures. This work is aimed at overhauling a critical and complex service. It is important it is done properly and not rushed.

Q&A – FORENSIC DNA PROGRESS REPORT

When do you expect all the recommendations to be in place?

Many recommendations relate to the review of historical cases where a court proceeding had previously concluded or a police investigation was not progressed further. The review of historical DNA samples, in some categories, dates back as far as 2007. This is a substantial undertaking and will take a number of years to complete.

Additionally, other recommendations are contingent on significant infrastructure and technology upgrades which will also take a number of years to complete.

When do you expect all historical cases impacted as a result of failings within the forensic DNA laboratory to be reviewed?

The review of historical DNA samples, in some categories, dates back as far as 2007. This is a substantial undertaking and will take a number of years to complete.

An initial review of cases in line with relevant recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry estimated that just over 30,000 cases would need to be reviewed. However, this is not a simple number to determine because many of the categories of cases recommended in the COI final report for review overlap with each other – and some cases need to be examined in detail before it is known whether they were impacted by the processes at the time.

A legal-led case review process has now been developed in consultation with criminal justice system stakeholders with subsequent endorsement by the Forensic Justice Advisory Sub-Committee. The legal-led process entails a legal assessment as to whether a sample is, in fact, probative in the case prior to being submitted to FSQ for further scientific advice. This process is being implemented for cases currently before the courts that contain samples previously subjected to sub-optimal testing. A review of historical court matters and police investigations will follow.

Do you have enough qualified scientific staff to test samples at the laboratory?

So far, we have made 33 offers to potential staff, 27 have accepted.

We know we still need more. (TOTAL STAFF OF AROUND 40)

There are enormous challenges recruiting qualified and experienced staff to interpret DNA results, as the pool of suitably qualified scientists is limited nationally and globally. We are doing everything we can to recruit appropriately qualified scientists.

FSQ's leadership team is leading a large-scale recruitment drive to source staff across multiple positions. This includes efforts to attract international applicants.

Some work is being sent to partner agencies interstate and overseas. This will help address backlogs.

Q&A – FORENSIC DNA PROGRESS REPORT

What is being done for victim-survivors of crime affected by the laboratory's issues in the meantime?

I acknowledge the impact the delay in assessing cases will have on the courts, families and other key stakeholders.

However, it is vital that we ensure the forensic DNA evidence is correct and that we are relying on quality scientific evidence to restore key stakeholder and the Queensland public's confidence in our forensic DNA services.

The case review process prepared by FSQ in consultation with key stakeholders will ensure that cases with scheduled court dates are being prioritised for review and any required further testing, analysis and/or interpretation.

The FSQ Interim Advisory Board includes a representative from a victim support organisation to give a voice to victims of crime.

It is recognised that this will be a challenging time for Queenslanders affected by these matters. Anyone who requires support, including concerned victims, can contact the Queensland Police Service hotline on 1300 993 191.

What happens if a recommendation is unable to be implemented due to factors like cost and workforce?

We are confident all recommendations will be implemented; however, we are mindful factors like recruiting appropriately qualified staff can be challenging.

Should circumstances beyond our control prevent us from implementing a recommendation, we will consult with key stakeholders to develop a contingency plan.

We are fortunate to have access to a wealth of expertise including FSQ interim advisory board co-chair Walter Sofronoff KC, who conducted the Commission of Inquiry, as well as internationally renowned forensic scientists on the FSQ interim advisory board and subcommittees.

Do you have confidence in Linzi Wilson-Wilde?

I have full confidence in Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde.

I stand by Professor Wilson-Wilde, a world-renowned scientist, for her expertise and integrity, and thank her for her courage and commitment in taking on the role of transforming the lab.

Today's progress report demonstrates Professor Wilson-Wilde competency in leading this complex body of reform.

Q&A – FORENSIC DNA PROGRESS REPORT

Did she misled the inquiry?

Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde has been very clear that she provided her expert opinion evidence to the Forensic DNA Commission of Inquiry in the utmost of good faith, truthfully, and in accordance with the instructions provided to her by the Commissioner on 12 October 2022.

Linzi has 25 years' experience in forensic science.

She is dedicated and determined to ensure that all the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry are fully implemented.

What do you say to suggestions by Dr Wright that Professor Linzi Wilson Wilde did not present evidence to the COI regarding Project 13 and what are the implications of that?

Evidence provided by Linzi to the Commission of Inquiry identified that Project 13 was flawed and not consistent with expected good practice.

In response to the recommendations, the Queensland Government is reviewing historical cases to determine whether further testing or interpretation may be appropriate.

The important fact is - the issues raised in Project 13 do not create ongoing risks at FSQ given there is now a new robotic platform.

Extensive training of scientists has been undertaken, a new DNA interpretation guideline has been introduced and there have been numerous changes to improve methods and processes.

Extraction methodology is being reviewed and assessed for the purposes of continuous improvement.

We are already seeing the results of this complex reform with suspects being identified that had not been previously, resulting in the matters progressing to court.

This is so reassuring for victims of crime.

The public should be assured by these results that Professor Wilson-Wilde and the government are intent on making Forensic Science Queensland a world leading laboratory.

Dr Kirsty Wright says she has been excluded from helping on the reform process – why?

The COI recommended the government pass legislation providing for the establishment of a non-executive advisory board.

Q&A – FORENSIC DNA PROGRESS REPORT

Such legislation has not yet been introduced to Parliament; however, consultation has been undertaken on the draft Forensic Science Queensland Bill that will support the functions of FSQ.

The draft bill does not include a requirement for advisory board members to be from jurisdictions other than Queensland.

There is an interim advisory board in place co-chaired by eminent retired judges Julie Dick SC and Walter Sofronoff KC.

Members appointed to the interim board have been appointed based on relevant qualifications, skills, experience, knowledge and standing to perform the functions of the interim advisory board.

How is the Queensland Government tracking in implementing the recommendations made by the final report of the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland?

To guide implementation, recommendations have been grouped into four focus areas or elements:

1. Organisational reform
2. Culture, quality and innovation
3. Scientific service delivery
4. Historical case review

These elements represent focus areas and do not imply priority in terms of the implementation of recommendations.

Theresa Stinson

From: Shannon Fentiman
Sent: Thursday, 14 September 2023 9:52 AM
To: Natarjsha Kramer
Subject: Fwd: [Transcript] Press conference: Opposition Leader David Crisafulli speaks with victims of crime from State Parliament
Attachments: image002.png; image003.png; Press conference - Opposition Leader David Crisafulli - 13 September 2023.docx

Can you pull out what he says about Bennett?

Shannon

Begin forwarded message:

From: Media Reporters **Irrelevant** <[redacted]@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Date: 14 September 2023 at 9:44:28 am AEST
To: External - Media Reporters **Irrelevant** <[redacted]@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Subject: [Transcript] Press conference: Opposition Leader David Crisafulli speaks with victims of crime from State Parliament

Press conference: Opposition Leader David Crisafulli speaks with victims of crime from State Parliament. *Listen here.*
Transcript attached.

Topics discussed:

1. Youth crime
2. Comments on social media by **Don Brown**
3. New parliamentary committee
4. LNP policies
5. Changes to sentencing
6. Police officers making racist comments and lack of consequences
7. Coal royalties
8. **Stephen Bennett** comments on social media
9. New desalination plant proposal
10. Water security for South East Queensland
11. **Queensland Health** data
12. High Court decision re Carne CCC report
13. Sudden death of a patient at STARS

Due to copyright restrictions, video, audio and press clippings are for internal use only.

Regards,
Zoë

Zoë Ramsay
Media Reporting Officer, External Relations & Services
Engagement and Events
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Irrelevant

Level 29, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

[Chat with me on Teams!](#)

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Event: Press conference

Speaker/s: Opposition Leader David Crisafulli
Victims of crime
Shadow Health Minister Ros Bates
Shadow Attorney-General Tim Nicholls

Airdate: 13 September 2023

Duration: 34 minutes 52 seconds

E&OE

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Well, the youth crime crisis is real. And it is a crisis, and it's affecting real Queenslanders every day. Real Queenslanders, that when they hear a government say it's nothing but immediately, they feel it. It's deeply personal to them. They have real stories. It's impacting their lives. When they hear about claims that it's being beat up, it runs straight to the contrary of what they are living when many of them are being beaten up, when many of them are living in fear in their homes, in their public spaces where they should be enjoying with their family. I want to say that I welcome the Government announcing, finally the victim on Sentencing Advisory Committee. That's something that we call for in my budget reply speech. They said at the time that that wasn't necessary, but I acknowledge is one step forward in the journey towards healing the youth crime crisis. But we have so much more work that needs to be done. Firstly, we have to arrest the decline in the number of frontline police officers. The fact that there are 202 fewer police from 12 months ago, is an indictment on the government's ability to plan the problem. We must rewrite the *Youth Justice Act*. We must. We have to put the rights of the victim ahead of the rights of the offender. We must remove detention as a last resort and unshackle the judiciary to do their job. Finally, we have to get serious about gold standard early intervention to turn kids around before they are harassing residents every single day of their lives. I've asked Rebecca Young to say a few words and introduce you to some very brave people from the Redlands who have....

REBECCA YOUNG:

Good morning everybody. My name is Rebecca Young. I'm the LNP candidate for Redlands. Today I've had the privilege of bringing in some very, very brave people from my patch of the city which is Redlands. These brave residents behind me stand with me after a very inconsiderate comments made down in the Capalaba electorate in regards to what they're experiencing on a daily basis being a media beat up. They're here today to tell their stories because as David said, they are real people. They feel unheard and they feel unsupported. And many of them have reached out to myself after the very careless comment was made for support. And what they've heard today is... I'll let them explain it, but I would like to first introduce Karen who'd like to reflect on her experience.

KAREN OLIVER:

Where do I start? I actually live in Capalaba. I had an incident in April this year, about 300 meters from Don's office actually, where I had a group of approximately eight people attack a young lady and a baby. I went outside to hear the commotion and I had to put this young lady in safety behind some hedges while I called the police. I ended up contacting Don's office via email to let him know the situation as I was terrified. I got the generic response that we've received your email, we'll get back to you. And that's all I've heard. Nothing further. I'm traumatised. I feel like I can't go out in my yard and continue doing my gardening to help my own stress. I'm constantly walking on eggshells because this sort of stuff is constantly happening around our area.

REPORTER:

Karen, how did you feel when Mr Brown made the comment that this was a media beat up?

KAREN OLIVER:

Well... trying to think of a way without... well, bullshit. That's all I can say. Bullshit.

REPORTER:

Were you disappointed [inaudible]?

KAREN OLIVER:

Yeah, very. And considering it happened 300 meters from his office and to not even get a response was really disappointing. You know, I would have at least liked someone to acknowledge that, you know, what, what went on and maybe even, you know, asked me if I was right, did I need to talk to somebody about it. Yeah. It still affects me daily.

REPORTER:

Did you, sorry, Karen did you, did you hear what the Premier had to say in parliament today about youth crime? Were you there to hear that?

KAREN OLIVER:

I could hear that but not, not totally what was going on, because it's very loud in there.

REPORTER:

What did you think about her response? She talked about how there are crimes interstate, the Government is spending a lot of money on different programs and taking this issue seriously. What did you think about her point of view?

KAREN OLIVER:

Sorry, I've frozen.

REPORTER:

What did you make of the Premier, what the Premier had to say today?

KAREN OLIVER:

I'm sorry, I've frozen. Sorry guys.

CIRONE:

We have been targets of youth crime now for a couple of years. It's the same group unfortunately, that we've been targeted by. They seem to be inciting others, younger parties to their gang so to speak. The crimes that have been escalating. It started out with, you know, normal sort of vandalisms and things like that but it's become more aggressive and violent. We no longer feel safe whatsoever. We've been in contact with several authorities and faced nothing but brick walls. Unfortunately, we've now had to sell our beloved family caravan, because we need to [inaudible] secure our property [inaudible]. We installed all the recommendations of fences, cameras. We got a 12 month old rescue dog. As soon as all of that was installed, they were there the following Saturday night to [inaudible], abuse us, call us out to fight. We've had to speak to parents who either don't care what their children are doing or are completely unable to control the situation and also fear for their own safety. Unfortunately we are very upset about today's parliamentary meeting in relation to a committee being formed. We figure that that is just another procrastination where we are literally preparing for war come this weekend. Last school it was constant.

UNNAMED SPEAKER:

And Dom Brown is not the only person so that crime is media beat up. We've had Kim Richards in our home. She's victim shamed us. She's upset my wife no end and specifically said that she thinks it's a beat up in the area. Her exact result was to walk up to my street after that meeting and say, where's all the crime? We don't feel safe in our homes. A committee doesn't help us. We need change now.

REPORTER:

How much damage has been done to your home?

UNNAMED SPEAKER:

My garage has been kicked in. My windscreens being smashed. My son's been assaulted. I've been verbally abused when I've gone to protect my house, and had beer bottles thrown at my head. We called police. They come and they say they can't do anything because they're minors. It just, it goes on and on. I mean two, three years, [inaudible].

CIRONE:

And last time when my son was assaulted by three of them, he was chased back to our home. He only made it three houses down. Went to a park with a friend of his. Chased home, [inaudible]. [inaudible] gathered [inaudible] from the skate park and [inaudible]. They abused us for almost two hours while trying to kick the caravan and do all sorts of things to our property. The police came five hours after two Triple Zero phone calls and then said that their hands were tied, they understand our frustrations. I really don't think they do.

REPORTER:

How old is your son?

CIRONE:

12.

REPORTER:

And how old were the people...

CIRONE:

The assailants are 13 and [inaudible] are 15 and 16.

UNNAMED SPEAKER:

But I've also got a two and a four year old that are living in fear. They can't use the local park. I can't take them to the park behind my house. I can't take them to the park at the bottom of the street. Explosions. Melted park equipment. Broken bottles. You name it, the park's just not safe for kids anymore.

UNNAMED SPEAKER:

We feel like the beautiful suburb that we brought in 10 years ago is now of warzone. And when we ring for authorities [inaudible] not to come in this circumstance, that is unacceptable. Nobody comes. And if they do best that they can't help. It should not be up to my husband and I have to defend ourselves, our four children and all of our property from assailants that are criminals.

UNNAMED SPEAKER:

And they laugh in the face of the police or anyone else that wants to do anything to them. They'll sit there and wait for the police. Police come, they have a chat to the police, and then go.

UNNAMED SPEAKER:

With my four year old, I spoke to him about what he thinks a police officer in the state should do. He said, well police officers catch the bad guys. How do I explain to my terrified four year old that they have to be over a certain age, not have a terrible upbringing, et cetera, et cetera, before they will even be approached, spoken to or cautioned by our authorities.

REPORTER:

What would you like the government to do differently?

UNNAMED SPEAKER:

I would like them to lock the assailants up instead of us locking ourselves up in our home, and not having rights in the streets, parks and facilities that we pay for.

UNNAMED SPEAKER:

Exactly what the minister just said then. We need to... incarceration is not a last resort. These kids have got to be taken off the streets. Our kids and all the kids in the community have to be safe. A group of eight or 11 kids terrorising the suburb is just not right.

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Any other, any other crime questions before I hand it over to Ros?

REPORTER:

I think the Premier or the Attorney-General said yesterday that they'd be writing to the Opposition seeking to work through this select committee. What's, what's going on, I suppose behind the scenes so far?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

We found out about it for the first time before parliament and we received that correspondence last night at about 8pm. We'll... we want change. And these people deserve change.

REPORTER:

The Premier said yesterday that you were trying to sneak into office without any policy and that you haven't articulated a detailed policy agenda. How do you respond to that?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Well I would ask you to go and have a look at my MPI from yesterday, in which I think for stealing already, policies like breach of bail, like lowering learner license fees, and I've asked them to steal the others. And Queensland, will be better off. So I like the Government to release health data within 100 days. I would like them to put doctors and nurses back in charge, and then the culture shift that centralises back in Brisbane. I'd like them to heal the youth crime crisis by removing detention as a last resort. Do it today.

REPORTER:

What does putting doc... Sorry, what does putting doctors and nurses back in charge mean?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

It means that [inaudible] shouldn't be in control of local hospitals. That should be for the HHS. And if you look at the funding model, increasingly what's happened is more money has drifted away from the HHSs and more has gone into central administration. The culture has to change, and doctors and nurses have to be put back in charge. And when health boards were set up, that was the reason behind it. And if I continue, when it comes to youth crime, we want to see detention as a last resort removed. That is a non-negotiable. We want victims of crime not to have to relive their experience and they should have to make sure that they don't pay again a second time when it comes to car rego and licence fees. And we want to maintenance guarantee on our power plants to keep them open, which isn't there at the moment. There are many things that I would like the Government to take that we've put forward. A first step would be for them to stop the infighting and the chaos and crisis that's unfolding. And if I do that, they might actually be able to start governing again.

REPORTER:

One of the things that Premier said yesterday was that you haven't ruled out asset sales. How do you respond to that?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Transcript

We have. We have. And, you know, there's been a lot of nonsense going on. And Steven Miles was trying to somehow try to link the fact that we have highlighted the projects that have blown out under their watch, and somehow try to link that in a way that is not being portrayed in what we're doing. And that is calling out a Government that can't deliver projects on time and on budget. And you've all lived through them. Now, I wouldn't call a Minister who would not only blow out a project by \$2.4 billion, but deliberately hide it. Now, that's a non-negotiable for me. And for somehow the Government to suggest that projects over running in time and on budget, and a Government not holding someone to account for doing that, for the Government to somehow think that that's bad governing shows how far they have fallen in their third term, because they wouldn't have copped that at the start.

REPORTER:

Do you want to see more offenders locked up? Is that your goal for removing detention as a last resort? What's goal there?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Well, it needs to make sure that people are held accountable. Now...

REPORTER:

But do you want to see longer jail terms?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

How sentencing unfolds is there's a raft of different settings and options. But what I want to do is make sure that the provision that says detention must be a last resort continues to see the same kids turned out on the street time and time again, isn't working. Now, what it looks like to me is gold standard early intervention to make sure we're intercepting kids before they're on that constant merry-go-round. But where kids are holding knives to people's throats, there must be an ability to disconnect them from that situation. Now, what that detention looks like is something that we're all open minded to. At times that needs to be traditional detention, at times that needs to be what I've spoken about with on country programs. But one thing is for sure, you can't keep saying to the same group of kids you can keep on doing that same behaviour and we're going to put you back to the same environment night after night. That has to change. And while detention is a last resort, while the Government hasn't planned properly for it, while there aren't early intervention, the broken merry-go-round will continue round and round.

REPORTER:

In Question Time, Don Brown appeared to be yelling over to your side that crime was down and there's another thing he said, I'm sorry. There was something else he was yelling. Oh, crime is down, check the stats, he said. What did you make of those comments?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Don Brown needs to [inaudible] living through [inaudible] his comments show that there is no remorse for what he said. And the Premier couldn't even herself to the state is in the midst of a youth crime crisis despite all [inaudible].

REPORTER:

With regard to the police officers reported making racist and offensive comments, we've been... I suppose, they remain police officers. Do you have to give an opinion about that? Is it an appropriate response?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Well, the Premier made some very definitive comments at the time. And I would like to know what information has come to the Premier to change their decision. And I'd like to see that information as well.

REPORTER:

Another thing that the Government was pushing on yesterday was your position on the coal royalty regime. If you're elected, will that remain unchanged?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

I've addressed that numerous times. And Cameron Dick has been trying now for over a year, but we haven't given him what he wants, the ability for his scare campaign. It was a bad plan. It was a dishonest plan. It broke the trust of industry. But it's the only plan that's there. And it's been tied to before the four-year forwards. So I'm not going to be irresponsible. And I've said that repeatedly.

REPORTER:

So you won't make changes to the coal royalty rates if you're elected?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

It's baked into the four-year forwards, of course not. But I've said that... if I haven't said that 100 times. Now, he continues to do – and this is becoming really troubling – between the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer and now the Health Minister, every day they stand up and say something that they know that is false. It's false on our voting record, it's false based on what we're saying, and yet they'll continue to say it. If that's not a soundtrack playing Desperado, I don't know what is.

REPORTER:

So you'd keep the current structure for the coal royalties, the regime, as it is?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

It has been baked into the forwards. Of course. And we're not going to allow the scare campaign to run. It was a very bad, very bad plan. It was very dishonest. And on 26 occasions, they said that there wouldn't be any new increased taxes. So it was your interview, in fact. On 26 occasions. Now, I've said multiple times, from the largest miners through to our dear friends in Japan and the ambassadors who invest here, and what I've said to them is, when we make promises in future, they will be able to count for something. When we make a promise on taxation, it will matter. And it will count for something. The government can't say that. In terms of the tax rate, it has been baked into the forwards, expenditure is tied to it, and therefore that is the rate.

REPORTER:

That's the four years, right. But ultimately, if you win election, the four years, that will still expire in your term of government...

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Tim, the Government can't even plan one year. I've given you four. Now, I've been very, very clear, ahead of the next election we are going to have a detailed tax plan, we're going to have a detailed infrastructure strategy. There will be the greatest level of visibility that Queenslanders deserve and expect. But there will be a difference. Nothing the Government says counts for a thing. Nothing. Because they're now seeking a fourth term, and they have made all these promises before. They promised 1450 police officers and it's going backwards. So they can promise 10,000 new police or two boy scouts and a [inaudible]. It doesn't matter. It counts for nothing. Their word means nothing.

REPORTER:

What month will that plan from you come out?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Well, I've already detailed many policies....

REPORTER:

No, a detailed costing.

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

I'll bore you again. Ahead of the next election. The way that it always should.

REPORTER:

Yes. Is there a month?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Ahead of the next election.

REPORTER:

June? July?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

The way that it always is.

REPORTER:

And so you won't rule out changes to the coal royalty regimes once the forwards end in the middle of the next term?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

We will have a tax plan ahead of the next election. And I think that's fair...

REPORTER:

But so you're not ruling it out at this stage?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Well, I'm not ruling it in either. So let's be clear, the scare campaign the Government wants to run has no validity. My word counts for something.

REPORTER:

But what is your word? You don't have a position yet...

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

I've just told you.

REPORTER:

...no position yet on whether or not you'd make changes during the next term.

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

No, that's what you say. That's not what I said at all. I said there is a tax plan that has been outlined that has been put in place, it was a very bad plan, it was a dishonest plan, but it is four-year forwards. And capital is attached to it and that is fair and reasonable for us as an Opposition to say that we will not be changing that.

REPORTER:

But the forwards run out in the middle of the next term. So you don't have a position on what will happen after that?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Well, I think giving you four years is a pretty reasonable and upfront thing for an Opposition to do. And we will be... ahead of the next election, people will know our tax plan. And every industry, whether it's someone wanting to invest in this state as a homeowner, whether it's someone wanting to invest as a business, whether it's someone in the mining industry, when we give our tax policy, it will count for something, it will matter. And it will mean something, and it will be locked in stone.

REPORTER:

So you'll answer that question, I guess... before the next election, you will have a plan regarding coal royalties for the rest of your term?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Of course, we will. That's fair and reasonable. But in the meantime, can we not have on repeat the Member for Woodridge saying the same things that he deliberately knows is not true. And our voting record in the house has shown it. Twice now. Twice. And all of my public commentary has shown it as well.

REPORTER:

[inaudible]

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Yeah, well Tim is here to address that.

REPORTER:

Just quickly, David, before you go. What did you make of Stephen Bennett's Facebook comments that were raised by the Health Ministers?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Well, I haven't seen... the first time I'd heard of the comments was when the Health Minister raised it. So it was the first [inaudible] and I haven't seen it. But based on what the Minister said, I found the comments very disappointing. And I just want to clarify something really clearly. Nurses in this state at the moment are leaving the system because they're under more pressure than ever. They deserve to be well paid. And what I can promise them is not only will they be well paid, and not only are we committing to make sure that that pay continues to increase, but they're going to have better conditions. Because the nurse on the Gold Coast who told the story yesterday about getting a text message and breaking into tears because they're so broken down, that system, when they're empowered and properly resourced, they're going to have better working conditions. So I just want to be really, really clear on it. I was disappointed by the comments from Steve, and it's certainly not my view and it's certainly not Ros's.

REPORTER:

Do you speak to him? What are you saying...

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

I haven't had a chance. I...

REPORTER:

I'm asking, will you?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Absolutely. And that's the first time I heard when the Minister said, and I can assure you I wasn't made aware of it before.

REPORTER:

What do you say to him when you do speak to him?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

[inaudible] vaguely what I just told you. It's not our position and I found the comments disappointing.

REPORTER:

Are you going to get angry at him?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

I'll be honest with him [inaudible].

REPORTER:

Do you think it would be irresponsible for the Government to proceed with a new desalination plant north of Brisbane when the Western Corridor Recycling Scheme has already been built?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

Well, it's irresponsible for a Government after 10 years to not have a water plan. Not one iota of one. And yesterday, the Minister's hopes and dreams were put in the hands of the lord. The Government's response to an impending water shortage is to pray for rain. Now, we await the Government to come forward with its plans and show us where in the Budget they intend to fund that and what are those projects. And I think Queenslanders eagerly await that.

REPORTER:

Do you think it'll be a better deal for taxpayers to drink recycled water?

DAVID CRISAFULLI:

I want to see what the Government's plans are. Ros is here for some health. Ros.

ROS BATES:

Ros Bates, Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and Registered Nurse. Queensland Health is on life support and flatlining under the chaos and crisis of the Palaszczuk Labor government. We saw Shannon Fentiman try and dress up the figures and make them look pretty for the website during Estimates, well, that didn't work very well. Today we're actually calling on the Minister to release not only the tier three data, but the tier two data. For those in the media, you will well know the term 'Code Yellow' that was when a hospital was at capacity. It used to be Category 6.2, which meant there was no room at the inn. So, there's no facility for the ED to transfer patients to the ward, they were having to move patients to other hospitals. Under the new regime, under Shannon Fentiman, which is less transparent than under the former embattled minister for health Yvette D'Ath, now we're only finding out the tier three categories of the HHS's, not the individual hospitals. And we know that individual hospitals are under incredible stress. Take Caboolture Hospital for example, which is currently sitting at 46 per cent ambulance ramping, and the Minister's comments about the satellite hospital relieving to the ambulance ramping is just pure bunker. Category fours and fives don't arrive by ambulance, category fours and fives don't need admission into hospital, and they don't cause the ambulance ramping that is currently happening in this State. So today we're calling on Minister Fentiman to release not only with tier three data, but the tier two data, so we know exactly what is going on in our hospitals. All Queenslanders now are getting headlines, quite a lot of Fentiman about dressing up the figures to make it look like she's actually doing her job. When in reality, my hard working colleagues and the frontline in ED are leaving in droves, still doing triple shifts, are absolutely exhausted and see no end in sight. The chaos and crisis of the last nine years under

Transcript

this Government continues under the third health minister that we've had under the Labor government. I'm happy to hand over to Tim Nicholls.

TIM NICHOLLS:

Well, today is judgment day when it comes to openness and transparency of executive government here in Queensland. Today, the High Court handed down its decision in relation to allegations of misconduct made against the former public trustee Peter Carne. And that decision was not in favour of the CCC. And what that means is that investigations and inquiries made into allegations that are presented to the Parliamentary Crime Commission will now no longer see the light of day. We will not have the antiseptic effect of sunlight being shone on...

... That is why there is ambulance ramping. The issue, of course, is that investigations that are carried out by the Crime and Corruption Commission into allegations of misconduct, where there are not findings of corruption but nonetheless, serious lessons to be learned will now not see the light of day. The antiseptic of sunlight will not be shone on the actions of executive government. The lessons learned will not be learned by the wider public sector, they will not be learned by the government, and most importantly, Queenslanders will not find out what is going on behind closed doors. And that's why we are calling on the government to take steps to amend the legislation to ensure that the reports into their Labor mates, Peter Carne and the former deputy premier Jackie Trad, two reports that the CCC has carried out and recommended be made public, can in fact be made public with the protection of parliamentary privilege. This is the essence of the system that was recommended by Tony Fitzgerald. This is the essence of the system that has been in play in Queensland for over 20 years. If this system wasn't in place, we wouldn't have heard about things like Gordon Nuttall, we wouldn't have heard about things like the fake Tahitian Prince, we wouldn't have seen inquiries into the Palm Island affair, we wouldn't have learned about problems at the University of Queensland's admission practice. They would all been swept under the under the carpet. And those are all important lessons that Queenslanders deserve to learn, and they deserve to know about.

It will be a dark day for Queensland if Annastacia Palaszczuk and Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath turn their back on openness, transparency and the recommendations of the Fitzgerald inquiry and the past practices of the CCC and the Parliamentary Crime Commission and fail to amend the legislation. And I've asked questions about this, I asked about it in Estimates. And I asked the Chair of the CCC what he regarded about it, and he said he regards it as vital to the carrying out of their work. And he said it in the opening words of his annual report as well. This is an important issue for integrity. And we already know that the Palaszczuk Labor government has an integrity inferno. We saw that with the *Letting the Sunshine In* report from Peter Coaldrake. And if the government don't act to amend the legislation to allow those two reports to be tabled, with the protection of Parliament, then we know that the chaos and crisis is continuing to lead to ongoing cover ups by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

REPORTER:

Is this a principle that should apply to everybody, not just these two reports? Is that something that the *Act* be amended so that any of these sorts of reports [inaudible]?

TIM NICHOLLS:

Absolutely. So... and that has been the case in the past as I pointed out. University of Queensland, Barbagello, it doesn't matter. It should be the open principle of justice. And that was what Tony Fitzgerald, when he set up his own commission of inquiry, actually said, 'we need these commission's of inquiry to test allegations and to report to the public'. And that's what the CCC now does.

REPORTER:

Do you think [inaudible] power [inaudible]?

TIM NICHOLLS:

It absolutely does. And we've got that from the Chair, Mr Barber, in essence, when asked what the event would be, he said he regards it most seriously. So it now means that an inquiry that just falls short of the very high bar of corruption, now no longer can be publicly released.

REPORTER:

So, the Premier said in the House that the government would be considering the decision. How long do you think is a reasonable time until she should come forward and say whether or not the legislation will be amended?

TIM NICHOLLS:

What have they been doing? This court case has been running for the better part of two years now. We've had a Supreme Court case, we've had a Supreme Court of Appeal case, we've had a High Court Special Leave case, and we've had a High Court case. The case was heard in June, special leave was granted in December, I asked questions at Estimates. This is not something new. I mean, while the deck chairs are being shuffled, while Minister Fentiman has been moved out and Minister D'Ath is being moved back in, is anyone actually concentrating on the business of government? Or is it just chaos and crisis and confusion? And they say, we'll wait till the emergency hits us before planning for it. They should know about it. They should know this was coming. This was something that has been on the cards for the better part of 18 months. And now they say, 'oh we're taken by surprise by this decision'. Seriously?

REPORTER:

Were you taken by surprise by this decision?

TIM NICHOLLS:

Well, court decisions are always interesting. And the High Court decisions are some of the most interesting, but there were two decisions, as I said yesterday in the House. It was either going to reaffirm the CCC's interpretation or oppose it. And they've come out on the view that the CCC are not correct. So it needs to be fixed. Who fixes it? The parliamentarians and the government of the day.

REPORTER:

How expensive do you think it has been for taxpayers?

TIM NICHOLLS:

Well, again, another secret. We've been questioning both the previous Attorney and his current Attorney about how much has been spent. And they have done everything in their power to avoid saying how much money they've given to Jackie Trad to defend the case. We know that the CCC has spent over half a million dollars getting it to the High Court. Taxpayers deserve to get a return on their money. And they haven't got it so far.

REPORTER:

I've just got a question for Ros about the sudden death in the STARS facility. What do you make of the 22 year old dying? [inaudible] the Coroner is now investigating but he was unable to get help from staff at the time?

ROS BATES:

Look, my heart goes out to that family, obviously, and I couldn't think of anything more frightening than not being able to breathe, there is nothing more frightening than not being able to get your breath and to have to be texting your family from a hospital is appalling. I think that Shannon Fentiman needs to investigate what happened at STARS, right now, to make sure that it never happens to any other patient again. We need to make sure that our staff are properly resourced, and this is going back to the issue that staff are telling me that they are leaving in droves, they are exhausted. I mean, I spent eight hours at Gold Coast hospitals last Thursday, at Robina and Gold Coast Hospital. I spoke to many staff, they are all doing their very best. If the chaos and crisis that the Labor government is not properly resourcing our frontline, then unfortunately, things like this can happen. They should never happen. And the Minister needs to get some answers today.

REPORTER:

And family saying that the hospital hasn't told them when he was last checked, how long he may have been dead for, is that reasonable that get to hold that information?

ROS BATES:

There certainly should be an internal review into what happened. They need to do an assessment straightaway, that generally happens anyway. Most of the time the family just want answers. They just want to make sure that it doesn't happen to anybody else again, and understand how it could have happened to their loved one. So those processes would be occurring. And yes, the family should be involved in the answers.

REPORTER:

What do you make of Stephen Bennett's comments?

ROS BATES:

Look, I haven't seen the comments. I first heard about them in Parliament this morning. As David said, they are not appropriate, and I do not agree with them. As I said I spend most of my time talking to my colleagues and hardworking frontline doctors, nurses and paramedics and they deserve all the praise that they possibly get and know that money is enough for the job that they do.

[ENDS]

Theresa Stinson

From: Natarjsha Kramer
Sent: Friday, 15 September 2023 5:11 PM
To: Shannon Fentiman
Cc: Phoenix Campbell; Amanda Medew
Subject: RE: DNA progress report

This line is in the MR re previous commitment and can be amendment:

The government accepted all 123 recommendations made in the report, and made an immediate initial investment of more than **\$100** million to support implementation.

The AG has mentioned rebuilding trust:

Quotes attributable to the Attorney General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Yvette D'Ath:

"I am heartened to see how much progress has been made in just eight months.

"This progress is a reflection of the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to improving our forensic DNA services and restoring the public's trust in the criminal justice system.

"This investment will provide the necessary capacity to conduct historical reviews of 30,000 cases to determine whether further DNA testing or interpretation may be appropriate."

BUT CAN ADD THESE:

"It is paramount that Queenslanders have confidence in our justice system.

"Victims of crime can be assured that addressing the issues identified by the Commission of Inquiry are a priority for this government.

"We have already seen significant work carried out, including the identification of serious offenders.

From: Shannon Fentiman **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 4:50 PM
To: Natarjsha Kramer **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Phoenix Campbell **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Amanda Medew **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: DNA progress report

And sorry one last thing, we should say in the MR that we have previously committed \$100M

Sent from my iPad

On 15 Sep 2023, at 4:48 pm, Shannon Fentiman **Irrelevant** @ministerial.qld.gov.au> wrote:

And we should talk about the work they are doing to solve more murders and serious crimes!

Sent from my iPad

On 15 Sep 2023, at 4:25 pm, Natarjsha Kramer
Irrelevant <@ministerial.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Hey,

Can you please check quotes below and let me know if you have changes. Release also attached.

Quotes attributable to the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women Shannon Fentiman:

“The newly established Forensic Services Queensland headed by eminent scientist Professor Wilson-Wilde, is putting in place appropriate structures to deliver what we want in a forensic DNA service – integrity, transparency, accountability and quality.

“I am grateful for everyone who has been working incredibly hard under challenging circumstances to continue providing services that are critical to the health and justice systems.

“Victims of crime can be assured that addressing the issues identified by the Commission of Inquiry are a priority for this government.

“There is clearly a lot of work to be done but this is a wonderful start.

<image002.png>

Natarjsha Kramer

Principal Media Advisor

Office of the Hon. Shannon Fentiman MP

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services

Minister for Women

Irrelevant <@ministerial.qld.gov.au>

<MR - DNA progress report.docx>

Theresa Stinson

From: Tracey Walker Irrelevant@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 15 September 2023 12:59 PM
To: Michael Walsh; David Sinclair; Aaron Suthers; Natarjsha Kramer; Amanda Medew
Subject: PROJECT 13 RESPONSES FROM LINZI AND QHEALTH

Fyi – info sent to The Australian from both Linzi and QH

From: Tracey Walker
Sent: Friday, 15 September 2023 12:49 PM
To: Thomas, Hedley Irrelevant@theaustralian.com.au>; David Murray Irrelevant@theaustralian.com.au>
Subject: PROJECT 13 RESPONSES FROM LINZI AND QHEALTH

Hi Hedley and David

Please find responses to your questions.

I expect you will include these responses to ensure a balanced story.

Please quote Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde, Chief Scientist, Forensic Science Queensland

I provided expert opinion evidence to the Forensic DNA Commission of Inquiry in the utmost of good faith, truthfully, and in accordance with the instructions provided to me by the Commissioner on 12 October 2022. I provided my opinion based on my 25 years' experience in forensic science.

My instructions from the Commissioner directed me to concerns about the cause of, and response to, contamination issues following a DNA extraction method used at the laboratory in around 2008.

I provided my report on 20 October 2022.

My evidence to the Commission of Inquiry identified that Project 13 was flawed and not consistent with expected good practice.

At no stage did I approach Queensland Health for paid employment.

I was offered the role of leading the newly established entity, Forensic Science Queensland, in December 2022.

On around 14 November 2022, I attended a discussion at the request of a member of the Taskforce. It was a very general discussion about the proposed new structure of the laboratory, the potential creation of an Advisory Board, whether I might have interest in a role as a paid Chair on that Advisory Board if it was established, and whether I could suggest other suitably qualified and eminent scientists who might have the expertise to be involved. I am aware that other experts who provided evidence to the Commission were similarly approached.

After that meeting, and in response to a request, Dr Rebecca Kogios and I provided a list of 16 possible local and international candidates, which included us. I did not ever receive any formal invitation or formal offer to be a member of the Advisory Board.

Towards the end of November 2022, I provided feedback about proposed terms of reference for an Advisory Board.

Also, to the best of my recollection, I believe some time in November 2022, I was contacted about my interest in a director position to assist with implementing the Commission recommendations. I declined.

I am dedicated and determined to ensure that the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry are fully implemented.

With the guidance of the Interim Advisory Board co-chaired by Walter Sofronoff KC and Julie Dick SC, my aim is to create a world leading forensic testing service that will deliver for our criminal justice system and make Queensland proud.

I refute in the strongest possible terms that my evidence in relation to this matter was misleading to the Commission of Inquiry.

I refute in the strongest possible terms any imputation regarding my integrity and independence in providing my expert opinion evidence to the Commission of Inquiry.

A Statement from Queensland Health follows

Please quote a Queensland Health spokesperson:

Queensland Health stands by Professor Wilson-Wilde, a world-renowned scientist, for her expertise and integrity, and thanks her for her courage and commitment in taking on the role of transforming the lab.

Professor Wilson-Wilde was approached in December 2022 to take on the role of Chief Scientist, Forensic Science Queensland.


Kind regards

Tracey



Tracey Walker
Executive Director
Strategic Communications Branch
Queensland Health

P Irrelevant
E^{relevant} @health.qld.gov.au
W health.qld.gov.au

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.

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Theresa Stinson

From: Shannon Fentiman
Sent: Sunday, 17 September 2023 12:26 PM
To: Rachel Western
Cc: Amanda Medew; Olivia Amsden; Natarjsha Kramer; Phoenix Campbell
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: FSQ advisory board response - due 3pm

Ok looks good

Shannon

On 17 Sep 2023, at 12:20 pm, Rachel Western <Rachel.Western@ministerial.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Afternoon Shannon,

See query from The Australian's David Murray below, a suggested response, and some finer detail for you. There is a lot of info in the response but all important. If you'd prefer some info just backgrounded instead let me know.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health, Mental Health, and Ambulance Services Shannon Fentiman:

"The COI recommended the government pass legislation providing for the establishment of a non-executive advisory board.

"Such legislation has not yet been introduced to Parliament; however, consultation has been undertaken on the draft Forensic Science Queensland Bill that will support the functions of FSQ.

"The draft bill does not include a requirement for advisory board members to be from jurisdictions other than Queensland.

"There is an interim advisory board in place co-chaired by eminent retired judges Julie Dick SC and Walter Sofronoff KC.

"Members appointed to the interim board have been appointed based on relevant qualifications, skills, experience, knowledge and standing to perform the functions of the interim advisory board.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health, Mental Health, and Ambulance Services Shannon Fentiman:

"I have full confidence in Professor Linzi Wilson-Wilde.

"In response to the recommendations, the Queensland Government is reviewing historical cases to determine whether further testing or interpretation may be appropriate.

"The important fact is - the issues raised in Project 13 do not create ongoing risks at FSQ given there is now a new robotic platform.

"Extensive training of scientists has been undertaken, a new DNA interpretation guideline has been introduced and there have been numerous changes to improve methods and processes.

"Extraction methodology is being reviewed and assessed for the purposes of continuous improvement.

“We are already seeing the results of this complex reform with suspects being identified that had not been previously, resulting in the matters progressing to court.

“This is so reassuring for victims of crime.

“The public should be assured by these results that Professor Wilson-Wilde and the government are intent on making Forensic Science Queensland a world leading laboratory.

ENDS

Background for Minister:

1. Recommendation 121 states:
 1. The government should pass legislation creating a forensic science institute for Queensland. The legislation should provide for.... (g) the establishment of a non-executive advisory board, to be chaired by an eminent person with relevant forensic science or criminal justice expertise, which would report to the Attorney-General on the performance of the laboratory and comprise: i. Two or three eminent forensic scientists **from jurisdictions other than Queensland**, including in the field of forensic DNA analysis;
2. This legislation has not yet been introduced to Parliament.
 1. Consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders in criminal justice, forensic science, health and victim support groups, who have all had the opportunity to provide feedback on and inform the progress of the draft Bill.
3. The Draft Bill does not include requirement for scientists to be from jurisdictions other than Queensland:
 1. S. 24 Members
 1. The council consists of the director and the members appointed by the Minister under section 25.
 2. S. 25 Appointment
 1. (1) The Minister may appoint up to 11 council members.
 2. (2) However, the Minister must appoint the following representatives as council members—
 1. (a) 1 representative of the Queensland Police Service;
 2. (b) 1 representative of the Director of Public Prosecutions;
 3. (c) 1 representative of Legal Aid Queensland.
 3. (3) Also, any other council member appointed by the Minister must hold qualifications, or have experience, in at least 1 of the following fields—
 1. (a) forensic analysis;
 2. (b) policing;
 3. (c) law;
 4. (d) support for victims of crime.
 5. (e) another field the Minister is satisfied

Kind regards,
Rach

From: Murray, David **Irrelevant**@theaustralian.com.au>
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 9:45 AM
To: Rachel Western **Irrelevant**@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Forensic Science Queensland advisory board

Hi Rachel,

As flagged, questions for the Minister relating to Forensic Science Queensland. If you could get back to me before 3pm with any response it would be much appreciated.