

The CrimTrac Agency

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Media Release

National DNA database head welcomes new sharing capability

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Australian interstate crime fighting partnerships have been greatly strengthened after a ministerial arrangement to share DNA profiles through the CrimTrac Agency's National Criminal Investigation DNA Database (NCIDD) was signed today.

'The new arrangement will be greatly welcomed by police in all jurisdictions,' said CrimTrac CEO Ben McDevitt. 'It's taken a lot of negotiation between the Commonwealth, States and Territories to get this far, but I have no doubts all those efforts will be worthwhile.'

'A truly national database will transform crime fighting in Australia, and the potential for improving clear-up rates on new crimes and cold cases is enormous,' Ben said.

'NCIDD now joins its highly effective fingerprint stable mate, the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System as the latest police tool in national investigations.

'Moving interstate is no longer a quick and easy way to avoid being detected for a crime, and now that the nation as a whole is committed to NCIDD the chances of getting away with a crime by crossing a border just got a lot slimmer.'

He said Commonwealth, Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia are matching with each other, and New South Wales is matching with the Commonwealth.

The CEO said inter-jurisdictional DNA matching had already proven its worth by providing leads in cases that had remained unsolved for years.

'NCIDD also had a critical role in the disaster victim identification process after the Bali bombings, and while everyone hopes we never have to use the database in a similar role nationally, we at least have the capability to readily do so.'

'I've often said everything that CrimTrac does should have real benefits for police men and women in every state and territory in Australia,' said Ben. 'I'm very pleased to think that ideal is now a step closer.'

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