

Media Release

SENATOR THE HON. CHRISTOPHER ELLISON

Minister for Justice and Customs
Senator for Western Australia

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Minister commits CrimTrac to help identify Bali victims

Federal Justice and Customs Minister, Senator Chris Ellison today committed the use of Australia's new national DNA matching systems at CrimTrac to help identify victims and remains from last Saturday's terrorist bombings in Bali.

Senator Ellison said the Commonwealth wanted to ensure the process of Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) was completed as quickly as possible to enable the deceased to be released to grieving relatives and brought home to Australia.

Senator Ellison has also offered for CrimTrac to facilitate DVI for the Indonesian Government and other nations who lost people in the Bali attack.

"The CrimTrac systems will provide the most rapid and reliable means of positively identifying human remains," Senator Ellison said.

"CrimTrac and the Australian Federal Police, together with State and Territory police, are cooperating on Disaster Victim Identification arrangements to make things as easy as possible for families of those missing or killed to register personal details with State and Territory police services."

Senator Ellison said there were now telephone numbers in every State and Territory through which families can contact the local police to arrange a visit from DVI team personnel for DNA sample collections.

"DNA profiles will then be automatically matched with DNA samples collected in Kuta," Senator Ellison said.

He said it was impossible to determine how long it would take to identify all the victims because the process needed to be exhaustive and conducted in accordance with accepted forensic protocols.

"This process relies on obtaining samples from a relative or from a personal item belonging to the deceased to compare with those gathered by crime scene investigators in Bali," Senator Ellison said. "CrimTrac and police are giving the operation the highest priority they can to minimise stress on grief-stricken families."

CrimTrac is a \$50 million Commonwealth law enforcement initiative which includes the National Criminal Investigation DNA Database and the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

Families can contact the missing persons unit or Crimestoppers in their State or Territory to arrange DNA collection. (Qld 1800 451 399, NSW 1800 025 091, Tas 03/ 6230 2606, SA 08/8463 7868, ACT 02/6256 7576, WA 08/9222 1568, NT 1800 333 000, Vic 1800 333 000)

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