

## **QCCL MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FORENSIC OFFICER DNA REQUIRES RING FENCING**

The Queensland Civil Liberties Council today backed the Queensland Police Union in respect of the Union's criticism of the QPS stance on Crime Scene Officers being required to compulsorily provide their DNA.

QCCL Vice President Terry O'Gorman said that if the QPS were to proceed with mandatory requirements that Forensic Crime Scene Officers provide their DNA, that should be done by special legislation so as to protect the privacy especially the genetic privacy of Queensland Police Officers.

"While on the one hand it is reasonable for the QPS to require Crime Scene Officers to provide their DNA so as to eliminate unknown DNA at a crime scene that might be referable to a particular Forensic Officer, it is equally important that the Forensic Officer's DNA that is so collected is ring fenced so that there is a legislative prohibition against that DNA being used for any other purposes whatsoever especially paternity testing in divorce cases and in situations down the track where a Forensic Police Officer who may have provided a DNA sample then becomes a suspect in a separate crime at a later time" Mr O'Gorman said.

Mr O'Gorman said that the issue was pressing in that today it is Forensic Police who will be required to provide their DNA and next week or next month it will be ambos and firies.

"It is absolutely imperative that special stand alone legislation be enacted so as to prohibit compulsory obtained DNA from police ambos and firies from being used for any other purpose whatsoever" Mr O'Gorman said.

Mr O'Gorman said that directives to Forensic Officers to provide body samples should be suspended by the hierarchy of the QPS until such stand alone and special legislation was in place.

7 May 2010

Queensland Council for Civil Liberties