

News releases - John Rau

SA's leading role in cross-border crime fight

John Rau

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South Australia has taken a leading role supporting forensic teams across state and territory borders, championing new arrangements allowing for more effective and efficient DNA testing for suspects across state borders.

The Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australian and Northern Territory Governments have now signed up to bilateral agreements with the South Australian Government that will enable sharing of forensics resources.

Under the agreements, police can apply for an order to take DNA from a suspect in another state or territory.

The move will prove invaluable in securing timely samples of forensic material in cases where a suspect may have been located in another jurisdiction.

Background

Attempts in the past to establish a national uniform regime allowing reciprocal DNA forensic procedures have failed.

Given increasing offender mobility and the obvious need for strong, cross-border co-operation, the South Australian Government entered into bilateral agreements.

The South Australian Government is continuing to seek agreements with Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT to strengthen both local and interstate law enforcement agencies.

Quotes attributable to Attorney-General John Rau

Crime does not respect borders. It's critical that our police can pursue offenders across state lines.

These agreements ensure that – when a suspect in a major crime is found in another state or territory – police can get any forensic materials they need quickly, to aid any ongoing investigation.

I'm pleased Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia and the Northern Territory have all recognised the importance of these agreements, and would urge all other states and territories to sign on – to ensure state and territory borders are no impediment in the fight against crime.

Quotes attributable to Police Minister Peter Malinauskas

While some level of cross-jurisdictional support already exists, this can often be a complex process.

Given time can be of the essence when seeking the relevant forensic samples, our police officers shouldn't be forced to battle red tape when seeking a DNA sample from a suspect in another jurisdiction.

This is a great example of SA taking a national lead in the identification of criminals and the delivery of justice.