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Your Ref: 11.1.4.c

22 September 2011

Hon Dean Wells MP – Acting Chair
Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Wells,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011.

The DNA Analysis Unit at Queensland Health Forensic & Scientific Services (QHFSS) has provided DNA profiling for the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and the Office of the State Coroner for many years. In the last few years, we have been committed to ensuring our services are efficiently provided to the Queensland community and to delivering the best service in the country.

This commitment is demonstrated by the fact that the time taken to provide a DNA testing report has fallen dramatically in recent years from some six months to an average of two to three weeks. Indeed, the FSS DNA Analysis Unit now leads Australia in this regard and is the recipient of national awards for its success in reducing its reporting times.

The DNA Analysis unit seeks to remain the provider for DNA profiling for the QPS thus ensuring value to the Queensland community for the significant investment by Government in a new laboratory, robotic equipment and improved processes. As such, QHFSS would appreciate an opportunity to suggest alternate models to provide the QPS with business continuity in DNA testing rather than object to the amendments proposed to the existing legislation.

With respect to the amendments to the Bill, FSS recommends that the following wording be used in the sixth dot point noted in your correspondence. This point would then read:

- non-government, forensic analysis of DNA samples **by a nationally accredited laboratory**

Yours sincerely

Greg Shaw
Senior Director

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