



WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE

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Mr Jonathan Curtis
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Curtis

**INQUIRY INTO THE CRIMES ACT AMENDMENT (FORENSIC PROCEDURES) BILL (NO.1)
2006**

I refer to Ms Julie Dennett's letter of 26 June 2006 inviting WA Police to make submissions to your inquiry into the Crimes Act Amendment (Forensic Procedures) Bill (No.1) 2006.

Firstly, I wish to affirm that the general position held by WA Police on this issue is that this legislation is not essential for WA to be involved with the National Criminal Investigation DNA Database (NCIDD). As you may be aware, WA has been successfully using NCIDD since 10 June 2005, when interjurisdictional matching between Queensland and WA commenced. Since then, WA has also been able to negotiate successful arrangements with the Northern Territory, Tasmania and most recently, the Commonwealth. Notwithstanding that, I must stress that we strongly support the progression of this Bill on the basis that it resolves the issues being experienced by other jurisdictions, that have to date, frustrated the full implementation of the NCIDD.

During the early drafting of this Bill, WA Police were consulted via the Standing Committee of Attorney's General Working Party. During that process WA Police raised several concerns mainly in respect to the application of *Crimes Act* (Commonwealth) offences applying to information on NCIDD. I am pleased to note that in the final drafting of the Bill our concerns were addressed and therefore I have no further submissions to make at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. If you require any further information concerning this issue, please contact Mr Matthew Samson at Police Legal Services on (08) 9268 7891.

Yours sincerely

BARBARA ETTER
A/DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
SPECIALIST SERVICES

20 July 2006