## **MEDIA RELEASE**



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## **NEW FORENSICS STANDARDS RELEASED**

- World first for Standards that focus on the quality of forensic practice
- Collection of evidence from crime scenes
- Analysis of forensic material
- Minimizing the risk of DNA contamination

Standards Australia announced today that nationally consistent practices and procedures to preserve the integrity of material collected from crime scenes have been established in forensic standards.

"It is critical that recognised best practice in obtaining evidence from crime scenes is established in Standards. They provide practitioners with a reference for establishing the required proficiency in forensic practice and can also guide education and training" said Colin Blair, Chief Executive Officer of Standards Australia.

Mr Blair said the forensic Standards are based on internationally recognised and accepted practices and procedures. The new Standards include:

- Forensic analysis Recognition, recording, recovery, transport and storage of material (AS 5388.1-2012)
- Forensic analysis Analysis and examination of material (AS 5388.2-2012); and
- Minimizing the risk of contamination in products used to collect and analyse biological material for forensic DNA purposes (AS 5483-2012)

These core Standards establish a framework for forensics practice in Australia and allow for future discipline specific 'add-on' Standards. Committee member and CEO of the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency, Jon White, welcomed their release.

"These Standards will ensure that the use of forensics is robust, repeatable and consistent across all jurisdictions in Australia. Currently there are no international Standards specifically addressing forensic practices and procedures. Australia is taking a lead role in establishing forensic standardisation across the globe," said Mr White.

Mr Blair said that Standards Australia is submitting the Standard on the manufacture of products used in forensic DNA collection and analysis to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for inclusion as an international Standard.

"Standards Australia has submitted a New Work Item Proposal to ISO to develop an international Standard based on minimising the risk of contamination in products. The Standard will cover products such as swabs, containers and packaging – and products used in the analysis of DNA samples – such as tubes and other plastic ware, disposable laboratory coats, gloves, masks and other consumables," said Mr Blair.

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