

COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE

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DNA Analysis

The Physical Evidence Section has been advised that DNA Analysis (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) will be undertaken by the Division of Analytical Laboratories in its Forensic Biology Laboratory, Glebe, from 1 February 1992. Due to the high costs of each examination it is proposed that a "Case Selection" process be introduced.

This process will adopt the following guidelines: -

- (1) Exhibits will be submitted to the Laboratory in the normal manner.
- (2) The Forensic Biologist assigned to the Case will carry out the normal Forensic Analysis.
- (3) Under normal conditions Officers at the Laboratory will decide if the case is suitable for DNA analysis. This decision will be made after considering all material supplied and the circumstances of the case. The Laboratory will then go ahead with the analysis.
- (4) Occasionally there will be a case submitted to the Laboratory that does not satisfy the guidelines. In these instances, approval for DNA analysis will be given after the matter has been discussed by Mr Robert Goetz, Senior Forensic Biologist, at the

Institute of Forensic Medicine and the Commander, Physical Evidence Section or his nominee.

In determining whether DNA analysis will take place, the Laboratory will take into consideration the following: -

- Is there enough material to allow a DNA analysis to be completed?
- Is the material contaminated in anyway that would hinder DNA analysis?
- Has blood from the suspect been supplied? If not, will it be supplied?
- Will conventional analytical techniques be sufficient?
- Is it preferable that more sensitive, but less discriminative, DNA examinations not yet available in NSW be conducted?

A R Lauer
Commissioner

INDEX HEADINGS:

DNA ANALYSIS - Selection Criteria

EXHIBITS - DNA Analysis Criteria

SELECTION CRITERIA - DNA Analysis