



The Use of DNA in Criminal Investigations

A Presentation on the NZ Law Commission Report

The ANZFSS are excited to announce our first speakers of 2021, Donna Buckingham and Kate McKenzie-Bridle.

Join us for their online presentation on the NZ Law Commission Report into the use of DNA in criminal investigations, and the greater implications that affect us in Australia.

Australian and New Zealand
FORENSIC SCIENCE SOCIETY



JAN 29 • 1:00 PM TO 2:30 PM

[ZOOM LINK: UWS.ZOOM.US/J/85807439276](https://uws.zoom.us/j/85807439276)



About the Talk

New Zealand was the second country to create a legislative regime for the use of DNA in criminal investigations – the Criminal Investigations (Bodily Samples) Act 1995. Rapid advancements in DNA technology in the 25 years since the Act came into force raise questions which require informed public debate.

In addition to whether NZ Police should be able to analyse DNA to predict appearance or biogeographical ancestry, there are questions such as:

- Whether Police can analyse an item discarded by a suspect (for example a coffee cup in a public rubbish bin) to get a DNA profile;
- Whether Police can search the National DNA Profile Databank for close matches to DNA left at crime scenes – indicating that it may have been a close relative of the person on the known person databank at the crime scene (familial searching);
- Whether DNA profiles should be collected from everyone in New Zealand and held on the National DNA Profile Databank.

In 2018, the NZ Law Commission published an Issues Paper on The Use of DNA in Criminal Investigations in order to facilitate consultation and foster public debate. Public submissions were collected and in 2020 a final report with 193 recommendations was published.

This presentation will include a general overview of the issues paper and final report, the consultation process, the diversity of opinions, the major recommendations and any future actions.

[READ MORE AT;](#)

WWW.LAWCOM.GOVZ.NZ/OUR-PROJECTS/USE-DNA-CRIMINAL-INVESTIGATIONS



Donna Buckingham

Commissioner

Commissioner Donna Buckingham joined the Law Commission in May 2016.

Formerly an Associate Professor of Law at the University of Otago, Donna is the founder of the New Zealand Legal Information Institute (NZLII), the largest New Zealand publisher of free online legislation, court and tribunal decisions, reports and articles. She is also a Barrister of the High Court of New Zealand, the former Chair of the Women's Consultative Group of the New Zealand Law Society and former President of the Otago Branch of the New Zealand Law Society.



Donna was Commissioner on the Review of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012, the second Review of the Evidence Act 2006 and the Review of the Criminal Investigations (Bodily Samples) Act 1995.

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Kate McKenzie-Bridle

Senior Legal and Policy Advisor

Kate McKenzie-Bridle is a Senior Legal and Policy Adviser for the Law Commission Te Aka Matua o te Ture where she has worked for the last 7 years.

She was the lead adviser on the recently completed project reviewing the use of DNA in criminal investigations. Kate's first 20 years of working life were largely spent in private practice in civil and family litigation. This period was interspersed with stints working at Community Law centres, working in the UK for the Official Receiver, studying theology for a year in Vancouver and having three children, who are now in their teens/early twenties.

Kate lives in Wellington with her husband, the two children who are still at home, and various animals.



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