

THE UTILIZATION OF FORENSIC CASE DATA AS A SOURCE OF MULTI-DIMENSIONAL INTELLIGENCE

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DNA Databases have become an increasingly utilized tool of the criminal justice community. The primary aim of any DNA Database is to link individuals to unsolved offences and unsolved offences to each other via DNA profiling. This aim has been successfully realized during the operation of the New Zealand DNA Databank over the past five-years. The establishment and expansion of such Databases is also providing large pools of data on crimes.

A collaborative project involving ESR and the New Zealand Police Service has recently interrogated the forensic case data held in the New Zealand DNA Databank. This has identified significant trends, which are used to direct police and forensic personnel towards the most appropriate use of DNA technology. Additional intelligence has been provided on the relative success of crime scene samples, the geographical distribution of crimes and demographic features relating to the criminals involved. Expanding the dimensions of the intelligence information offered through the DNA Databank has furthered the understanding and investigative capability of both police and forensic scientists. The outcomes of this research fit soundly with the current policies of "intelligence led policing" which have been adopted by Police jurisdictions locally and overseas.