

FACT SHEET

Forensic Procedures Amendment Bill 2014

The Bill makes a number of amendments to the *Forensic Procedures Act 2000*. Principally, the Bill inserts a new Part 4B into the Act – Sampling Procedures on Children under 10 years of age.

A sampling procedure by way of buccal swab or saliva sample will be allowed with the permission of a parent (or on the order of a magistrate) in the following situations:

- To identify the young child, if a police officer is of the opinion that the young child is lost or abandoned;
- To identify a deceased person, if the young child is the only person available to provide DNA for the purpose of identifying the deceased person;
- To identify or locate a missing person, if the young child is the only person available to provide DNA for the purpose of identifying or locating the missing person;
- To establish the young child's parentage, if the young child is not a victim of a crime to which the sampling procedure relates but the young child's DNA may provide evidence of the commission of that crime (for example to establish the father of a child born to a person under the age of consent); or
- To differentiate the young child's forensic material from other forensic material found at a particular crime scene.

These provisions should greatly assist Police in the course of their investigations and law enforcement functions.

The Bill also makes a number of minor amendments to the Act to assist the Act to better function, such as allowing the comparison of DNA of missing or deceased persons.