

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
CRIMTRAC

Question No. 21

Senator Stott-Despoja asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2008:

What is the objective, nature and scope of the National Portable Biometric Identification project?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

New South Wales Police has initiated a project, named the Field-Id project, which incorporates the capture of offender fingerprints by a handheld device in the field.

New South Wales Police plan to use handheld fingerprint capture devices to assist with the identification of offenders for the issue of Field Court Attendance Notices (FCANs) and Court Infringement Notices (CINs).

The Field-ID project requires interfaces to the CrimTrac National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) and the National Police Reference System (NPRS) to identify an individual and check if their fingerprints are currently held on NAFIS, and then to provide biographical data to the police officer if a record exists.

If a FCAN or CIN is issued to the offender, the offender's fingerprints will be stored until the offender has paid the costs associated with the offence to the NSW government, at which time the fingerprints will be deleted from the system.

The objective of the CrimTrac National Portable Biometric Identification project is to build the interfaces to CrimTrac's systems to allow these transactions to occur.

CrimTrac will ensure that technology used to implement the New South Wales Police Field ID will also be capable of use with portable biometric devices in other jurisdictions should those jurisdictions decide to proceed with portable biometrics.

The scope of the project is to

- Develop national business requirements for integration of the CrimTrac NAFIS and NPRS systems to support the use of portable biometrics devices
- Implement a solution to satisfy those requirements, initially to support the NSWPF Field-ID project but with a view to allowing adoption by other police forces as required.
- Upgrade NAFIS to cater for the additional processing load created by the new devices. Current modelling predicts that once fully implemented in NSW, there will be approximately 2,100 additional fingerprint searches per day.