

## Index

Classifieds.....	72
Comment.....	66
Credlin.....	31
Finance.....	62
Letters.....	70
Motoring.....	64
Racing.....	47
Stellar.....	39
Sunday Quiz.....	71
Way We Were.....	71
World.....	66

## Weather

Queensland: Isolated showers  
Bris, Coasts: Partly cloudy  
Details: P70

	Min	Max
Brisbane	13	22
Gold Coast	10	21
Sunshine Coast	12	20

## Contact us

Brisbane: 1300 304 020  
Gold Coast: 5584 2888  
Sunshine Coast: 5456 6593  
North Qld: 4722 4529  
Fax: 3666 6787  
Email: News tips, pictures to  
yournews@thesundaymail.com.au  
facebook.com/couriermail  
twitter.com/couriermail



DOWNLOAD OUR  
APP FOR NEWS  
ON THE GO

MOST OF \$30M TO FIX DNA CRISIS SPENT ON NEW OFFICES

# 'Broken' forensic lab adds insult to injury

## EXCLUSIVE Tayah Fellows

Vulnerable rape victims have been left waiting more than a year for crucial DNA results after \$19.5m earmarked to clear a rape kit backlog was instead spent on swanky new offices for forensic managers.

The shock move to repurpose the funding was laid bare in Dr Kirsty Wright's explosive report into Forensic Science Queensland (FSQ) this week, which found victims of major crimes like rape, murder and sexual assault were waiting an average of 412 days for DNA evidence tests compared to just 10 days in other states.

In an exclusive interview with The Sunday Mail about her four-year battle to fix forensic testing in Queensland, Dr Wright said she questioned how the public trust could ever be restored following the reallocation of funding.

"Finding (most of) the



Dr Wright

\$29.5m being repurposed instead of testing rape kits from children, people with impairments which includes little old ladies with dementia, someone's granny that maybe getting repeatedly raped – they are the victims less likely to be believed and they rely on the forensic evidence," she said.

"These are really vulnerable people and for them to hear that money was allocated to build new offices for managers – how do you ever restore that trust again?"

After two inquiries in 2022 and 2023 confirmed Queensland's DNA lab had set incorrect testing thresholds and was rushing testing DNA through an unverified method called "Project 13", it was revealed more than 100,000 DNA samples were compromised. This meant evidence from 32,412

## “How do you ever restore that trust again

### Dr Kirsty Wright

crime cases dating back to 2007 needed to be retested.

Despite severe backlash from the forensic science community and being painted as the "No. 1 enemy", Dr Wright called for testing to be halted at the overwhelmed lab that now also sought to implement 126 inquiry recommendations.

But testing was not paused, the former Labor government instead approving \$29.5m to help FSQ clear the backlog.

FSQ used \$10m to outsource some DNA profiling and in July 2024 requested the remaining \$19.5m be reallocated to fund facility "infrastructure" and new equipment.

At this time the lab was experiencing a backlog of 18,000 new samples with crime victims waiting an extra three years for court dates due to delayed DNA evidence.

As of 2025, 13,000 DNA samples and 1000 rape kits are waiting to be tested – 121 of those relating to child and impaired rape victims.

Dr Wright's review determined that outsourcing all samples from early 2023 would have prevented new cases from joining the backlog.

While the lab is yet to identify how many victims will be affected by the latest test bungle, Dr Wright estimates the number at 12,000 people.

And she says Queenslanders deserve to see those responsible held to account.

"After being betrayed again, I am 100 per cent confident there is no way the community will trust that lab again, unless there is significant change," she said. "It takes more than one

person to create what we discovered in our report. FSQ knowing those contamination issues, knowing they were using tests that potentially result in a miscarriage of justice – the concealment of that knowledge from the police and the courts. To play with people's lives, to put children in harm's way, to let rapists rape again. There is no excuse for that."

Her findings could also have implications outside Queensland, as the lab continued to pass National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) checks and maintained its accreditation throughout the four years it was found to be contaminated and using unverified testing methods.

Dr Wright said it was proof the national framework needed to be updated.

"How does NATA tick a lab off that is thoroughly broken?" she said. "This isn't a Queensland problem. This is a national problem."

SM 10/8/2025

**Queensland Legislative Assembly**  
Number: 5825T/253  
 **16 SEP 2025** Tabled ☒  
By Leave ☐  
MP: MR LEB  
Clerk's Signature: M. R. [Signature]