

Turn around times and backlogs for Forensic Units.

This report was produced on 7/3/13 and is current until 1/6/13 and will be reissued every 3 months.

Definitions:

- **Turn around time** (TAT) is the time to provide a report from the <u>receipt of the case</u> at FSD, (not from the date of offence or date of arrest),
- The backlog is the number of cases not yet reported,
- A report may be a Statement, Certificate or Forensic Report,
- A **Forensic Report** outlines the results obtained from the examination of items without complex statistics that would be in a Statement: the intent is to assist the judicial system reach early resolution.

The times are indicative only and exceptions can be made. However, any exception that is given priority may have an impact on timeframes for other cases in the system.

Work unit		Priority/turn around times
Crime Scene	Major Crime Scene	75% cases within 2 months of scene attendance.
Division	Services (Crime	Prioritised to meet brief deadlines.
	Scene/Ballistics)	Any delays are generally caused by work firstly needed from
		another work unit.
		Backlog of 48 cases for Crime Scene & 123 cases for Ballistics.
	Vehicle Examination	TAT up to 6 months.
	(stolen vehicles)	Charges only laid after examination.
		Backlog of 30 cases
	Fingerprints	Vast majority of volume crime cases dealt with on the day or within
		24-hours of receipt.
		Backlogs:
		Major Crime 61
		Eastern MFU 27
		Southern MFU 226
		Central MFU 40
		Large % of serious crime cases dealt with within first week of
		receipt / scene attendance.
		Prioritised to seriousness of the offence or brief deadlines.
		Any delays are generally caused by work firstly needed from
		another work unit.

Diology	Diological Evamination	TAT depends on case type:
Biology	Biological Examination	TAT depends on case type:
Division	Branch (BEB) (crime	In general, Forensic Reports are provided for cases prior to
	against the person)	committal. A Statement is provided upon request for cases going to contested committal or beyond.
		Sexual offences where a suspect has been charged statements are
		completed within 6 weeks. Preliminary report of results from
		medical kits is provided by email to police within 48 hours (i.e. if
		sperm detected on slides).
		Non sexual offences cases are allocated via the Priority List with
		OPP/VicPol Prosecutions who advise of upcoming court dates.
		Three months notice is required for Statements and Forensic
		reports. If cases not in the Priority List a TAT of up to 12 months
		may apply.
		Urgent investigative cases (community safety etc) commenced
		immediately.
		Backlog of 721 cases.
	DNA Science	Forensic DNA Database team (FDDT) (volume and serious crime)
		Provide Forensic Reports for cases prior to committal. A Statement
		is provided upon request for cases going to contested committal or
		beyond and three months notice is requested.
		Backlog total 329 at 13.2.13 cases (primarily cases waiting for DNA
		results. FDDT examine exhibits as soon as they are lodged at the
		centre or become available for examination).
		TAT is 29 working days.
		DNA Ops (DNA component of testing for BEB and DNA)
		TAT 10 working days (but see BEB & FDDT for total TAT for a case)
	Botany Branch	Cannabis and opium poppies (shop front):
		Immediate examination on booking. Certificate within 2 weeks.
		Statement (of yield etc) if requested: 6 weeks.
		Not examined prior to Mention Court (unless Finding of Fact
		desired for large quantity)
		Botanical Trace:
		TAT up to 6 months.
		Backlog 12 cases.
Chemistry	Forensic Drug Branch	Clandestine labs:
Division		TAT 9 months
		Backlog 88 cases
		Drug analysis:
		TAT 5 months
		Backlog 68 cases
	Chemical Evidence	Chemical Trace:
	Branch	TAT – 7.0 months
		Backlog - 41 cases
		Fire and explosions:
		TAT – 1.5 months
		Backlog - 129 cases Microscopy (GSR):
		TAT – 8.0 months
		Backlog – 77 cases
		Ducking 1/1 cases

D	Digital & Document	Audio visual:
E	Evidence Branch	TAT – 2 months
		Backlog – 120 cases
		Document Examination:
		TAT – 5 months
		Backlog – 49 cases

Issued by FSD Senior Management Team.

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