



VICTORIA POLICE  
Forensic Services Department

## Turnaround times and backlogs for Forensic Units

This report was produced on **01/10/19** and is current until **01/01/20** and will be reissued every 3 months.

### Definitions:

- **Turnaround time (TAT)** is the time to provide a report from the receipt of the case at VPFSD, (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/turnaround times
Forensic Field Operations & Information Services	Crime Scene Group (Major Crime Scene and Ballistics Units)	Target of all cases out under / at average turn-around time. Prioritised to meet brief deadlines. Currently 92% (MCSU). Backlog of 89 cases for MCSU. Backlog of 74 cases for Ballistics (TAT less than 1 month) Any delays are generally caused by waiting for work by another work unit, waiting for information from investigators or issues relating to PaLM system. Current TAT for new casework is 14 days.
Laboratory Operations – Biometric Services Division	Biological Sciences Group.	TAT depends on case type: In general, case summary reports are provided for cases prior to committal. A statement will be provided for cases going to a contested committal upon request and in consultation with the OPP (Priority List system). Three months' notice is required. <b>Sexual offences</b> where a suspect has been charged – case summary reports are generally completed within 10 weeks, provided exhibits are submitted in a timely manner. For sexual offence cases that involve a child complainant or if the complainant is mentally impaired then a case summary report will be generally provided in 6 weeks given the availability of exhibits. Preliminary report of results from medical kits is provided by email to police within 48 hours.

Laboratory Operations – Biometric Services Division	Reporting Unit (crime against the person)	<p><b>Child in Custody cases</b> - case summary reports are generally completed within 6 weeks, provided exhibits are submitted in a timely manner.</p> <p><b>Other cases</b> are allocated via the Priority List with OPP/VicPol Prosecutions who advise of upcoming court dates. Three months' notice is required for Statements. If cases are not on the Priority List a <i>TAT of up to 8 months</i> may apply.</p> <p><b>Urgent investigative cases</b> (community safety etc.) commenced immediately with results provided within 1 week.</p> <p>Backlog of 489 cases.</p>
	Forensic DNA Database Team (FDDT)	<p><b>Volume Crime</b> Backlog total 243 cases on 04/09/2019 (169 cases in DNA AU and 74 at interpretation stage.) Average TAT over past 6 months was 14.1 working days.</p>
	DNA Analysis Unit	<p><b>DNA Analysis Unit (DNA component of testing)</b> TAT 12.8 working days for Reference/CO person samples and 6.9 working days for Evidentiary samples (Jun, Jul, Aug 2019).</p>
Fingerprint Sciences Group	<p><b>Latents:</b> Major Crime cases are still being assessed and categorized as Critical/Urgent and are commenced within 24-hours of receipt. Volume Crime cases are still being categorized at the vetting/triage stage as Priority 1 (blue, Priority 2 (red) or Priority 3 yellow) Priority 4 Green based on the likelihood of an offender's prints being present. The current latent searching TAT is 0.7 days</p> <p><b>Current latent backlogs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Current Metro Latent cases outstanding: 57 (↑29)</li> <li>▪ Current Regional Offices cases outstanding 12 (↑2)</li> </ul> <p><b>Operations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Current Exhibit backlog: 82cases (↑43)</li> <li>▪ Current TAT for Exhibits is 12.8 days from pickup from FEMU. Demand decreased from 143 cases to 121 cases/month</li> </ul> <p><b>Criminal Fingerprint sets and Legislative Compliance: (at end August 2019)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Current/Backlog (pre legality checks): 28551 (↓3005)</li> <li>▪ Total Monitored (Charged-pending court results): 5126 (↑3064)</li> <li>▪ Current/Backlog Pending destruction: 1558 (↓1092)</li> <li>▪ Total backlog: 35235 (↓1033)</li> </ul>	

Laboratory Operations – Analytical Services Division	Drug Sciences Group	<p><b>Clan Labs</b> Mention Cases – TAT preliminary analysis results provided at ~8 weeks, Statement produced for cases listed for Hearing upon request. Committal Cases – TAT 5-8 months depending on case complexity, determined at the OPP/DSG (Drug Sciences Group)/CLS/Informant Case Conference. Backlog 19 cases <b>Drug analysis:</b> TAT 4 months Backlog 92 cases</p>
	Botany Unit	<p><b>Cannabis and opium poppies (shop front):</b> Immediate examination on booking Certificate within 2 weeks Backlog 0 cases Statement (of yield etc.) if requested: will be provided in time for Committal if notification received at least 6 weeks prior. Not examined prior to Mention Court unless fresh plants or destruction desired for large quantity or deteriorating plant material. <b>Botanical Trace:</b> TAT approximately 8 months Backlog 15 cases</p>
	Chemical & Physical Sciences Group	<p><b>Chemical Trace:</b> TAT investigative 77 days TAT evidential 136 days Backlog 88 cases <b>Fire and explosions:</b> TAT –10 days Backlog -45 cases <b>Vehicle Examination Unit (stolen vehicles)</b> TAT investigative - 34 Days TAT evidential – 124 days Backlog of 25 Cases</p>
	Digital Sciences Group	<p><b>Audio visual:</b> TAT (urgent) – 1 - 3 months TAT (non-urgent) – 6 - 10 months Backlog – 98 cases <b>Document Examination:</b> TAT (urgent) – 1 - 3 months TAT (non-urgent) – 6 - 9 months Backlog – 42 cases</p>

For enquiries contact VPFSD on 9450 3444.

Effective 01 October 2019

**PUBLIC DOMAIN**