

# New technology puts finger on crime

By Louise Allen, Media and Public Affairs Branch



Many offenders will no longer have inked fingers after being nabbed by police thanks to the introduction of a new fingerprint scanning device.

Alternatively, police forensic officers will no longer have to spend hours processing paper-based fingerprints.

The LiveScan technology will allow officers stationed in watchhouses throughout Queensland to scan an offender's fingerprints and get a match within 15 to 20 minutes.

Senior Sergeant Ray Knight from the LiveScan Project said this improvement in services would have a tremendous benefit for policing.

"It will positively identify an offender and highlight any outstanding paperwork concerning that individual in a matter of minutes," he said.

The State Government has committed funding for 15 units to be introduced to watchhouses and stations throughout Queensland.

LiveScan devices have the ability to capture and record fingerprints directly from the offender's fingers and palms. The images are then converted to an electronic format for transmission and search.

Initial results from the CrimTrac's Australian 10-print database will be available, after confirmation by a fingerprint expert, at the time the offender is in police custody.



Senior Sergeant Knight said speed and accuracy were the main features of the new technology.

"This is part of improving the professionalism of biometric collection, including fingerprints, DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) and digital photography.

"As our world moves further into digitalisation, it is imperative for the Service to be in accord with modern day policing," he said.

The introduction of LiveScan will be systemically introduced during the middle of this year. The Queensland Police Service is currently negotiating with a number of vendors to supply and install the devices.

In the initial roll-out, LiveScan devices will be placed in the Brisbane, Richlands, Caboolture, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Beenleigh, Southport, Maroochydore, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Cairns, Mount Isa and Townsville watchhouses. One will also be installed in the Logan Police Station.