

# Crime scene DNA to be checked against database including ‘kinship matching’

- by: *DAVID HURLEY*
- From: *Herald Sun* December 14, 2014



Police could track down criminals through the DNA of family members. *Source:* Getty Images

## **POLICE are set to start using the DNA of family members to link criminals to their crimes.**

The new system, developed by the Federal Government agency, CrimTrac, will allow police to take DNA from a crime scene and crosscheck it with samples on a massive database.

If that sample partially matches somebody on the database, detectives will be able to trace the perpetrator through the relative.

Federal Justice Minister Michael Keenan told the *Herald Sun* all Australian police forces should be able to make use of the system by the middle of next year.

“A candidate list of potential relatives is produced for investigation by the police ... as a result, familial searches can generate new leads,” Mr Keenan said.

Police are also set to use the new system for “kinship matching” to hunt down criminals.

Police have used the technology to assist in identifying victims of the Bali bombings, the Asian Boxing Day tsunami and the Black Saturday bushfires, but are now set to use it to catch criminals.

“These are internationally recognised processes,” Mr Keenan said.

“Familial DNA searching has been used successfully by police in the UK, USA and New Zealand to investigate cases of serious crime.

“DNA matching has proven to be one of the most powerful weapons in law enforcement and all policing agencies agree that building on existing DNA databases will put them another step closer to catching criminals.”