



Transition and reflection in the forensic sciences

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As a forensic science community we need to position ourselves so that we are offering greater value for money and better justice outcomes. We need to give thought to where the forensic sciences are positioned if we view them from the perspective of a traditional market product life cycle and identify the risks and barriers to effective service delivery from a value-add perspective. To this end there needs to be a focus on both efficiency and process integrity. The forensic sciences should not just be a product for the courts. They should also be playing a major role in crime prevention, crime disruption and reduced fear of crime if they are to reach full potential. A transition to this position must be accompanied by a return to our roots to ensure that we have the fundamentals right in terms of what we currently produce. The validation and legitimisation of DNA as a forensic science tool has highlighted that such rigour was not always exhibited during the introduction of new methodologies and the onus is on us as a community to revisit this.