

# Furious 'CSI' officers striking over unjust pay

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CRIME scene officers will ban fingerprint comparisons and after-hours call-outs as their fight for pay parity with police escalates.

The civilian forensic experts, who are employed by the NSW Police Forensic Services Group, say they are being denied as much as \$17,165 a year in allowances

given to police doing the same job.

The officers, of which around 10 worked on the Lindt Cafe siege and another 10 on the Curtis Cheng shooting, have been fighting the state government for parity for five years without success.

Crime scene officers play a critical role in the justice system, and are often called on as expert witnesses through the Australasian

Forensic Field Sciences Accreditation Board (AFFSAB). In 2012, police officers with the same Board accreditation were granted a significant annual expert allowance.

Civilian employees have been fighting for parity ever since and will now resort to industrial action.

Public Services Association (PSA) general secretary Stewart Little said the industrial action

would include a ban on fingerprint comparisons and performing on-call crime scene duties.

"There is significant training, study and experience required to perform these roles, yet NSW Police denies them benefits paid to the police staff they work alongside," he said. He said the officers would take care to ensure the bans did not impact on police work.