The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) is a statutory authority contained as an administrative unit within the Justice portfolio. The Director of the Institute holds the Chair of Forensic Medicine at Monash University and operates the Department of Forensic Medicine at the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

This department is the only academic department of its kind in Australia and it exists in parallel with an operational forensic medical service which makes it particularly special. Its primary function is to advance the discipline of forensic medicine and its associated disciplines. In this respect, the Department is committed to the training and development of future practitioners; as well as increasing through research, the evidence basis for forensic medicine.

**Research interests**

- Application and practice of forensic pharmacology and toxicology.
- Human identification including forensic anthropology, forensic odontology and molecular biology.
- Forensic pathology: improved understanding of the cause and pathology of injuries, and causes of sudden or unexplained death.
- Sexual assaults: interpretation of injuries and drug involvement
- Involvement of alcohol and drugs in road trauma and assaults.
Training

- Under-graduate training in medical law to MBBS (including graduate entry program) and international medical graduates.
- Master of Forensic Medicine for medical and dental graduates engaged in the pursuit of clinical forensic medicine, forensic pathology, and forensic odontology.
- PhDs in the forensic application of medicine, dentistry, science, and anthropology.

Resources

- Access to forensic medical and scientific practitioners.
- Scientific laboratories with state-of-art resources for the detection of drugs and in the use of modern DNA techniques for human identification and disease diagnosis.