THE State Government has put together a working party to consider possible solutions to correcting wrongful convictions.

The move follows consultation between state Attorney General Kerry Shine and members of the Griffith University Innocence Project. The group, which includes members of the Attorney General's office, the Health Department and the office of the Commissioner of Police, will make recommendations to consider retention, testing and access to DNA and the secondary appeal process.

Shine, who referred convicted child killer Graham Stafford's second petition for pardon to the Court of Appeal recently established the group after calls by the Innocence Project for an overhaul of policies and procedures for DNA evidence in the State.

Innocence Project co-founder and prominent defence lawyer Chris Nyst, says DNA plays an important role in the justice process with more than 200 prisoners exonerated in the US.

“It's clear from international studies and developments, DNA evidence can be a most valuable tool in exposing and correcting wrongful convictions,” he says.

“Already 215 exonerations have occurred in the United States through DNA innocence testing. However, there needs to be checks and balances put in place to ensure use of DNA in criminal proceedings in this State is transparent and that DNA innocence testing is available in cases where it can demonstrate a wrongful conviction.”

Nyst believes the decision by the State Government to table policies and procedures for the post-conviction review of DNA-based wrongful conviction cases, could make Queensland the leading state in Australia in the use of DNA evidence.

Innocence Project director Lynne Weathered, says the group is a positive step in improving Australia's justice system.

“To date Australia has been lagging behind the rest of the western world in relation to this issue but the establishment of the working party shows a mature and appropriate response by the Attorney General,” says Weathered.

“There is no reason to deny DNA innocence testing that could show a wrongful conviction. No one wins by having the wrong person in prison.”