The Northern Territory and Queensland have signed a joint agreement opening up the exchange of DNA samples between the two jurisdictions in the fight against crime.

Northern Territory Police Minister Paul Henderson and Queensland Police Minister Judy Spence have signed off on the agreement following months of work and negotiations.

“The Northern Territory and Queensland have been leaders in the use of DNA in the fight against crime, and this agreement is an important step in giving police another tool to tighten the net around criminals,” Mr Henderson said.

“With the powers to cross check the other’s DNA database the long arm of the law just got longer - criminals will no longer be able to run and hide across the border.”

Ms Spence added: “Under the new agreement, Queensland and Northern Territory Police will be able to directly exchange DNA samples taken from crime scenes to compare it against the other’s DNA database.”

“Crime does not stop at state borders and this agreement will enhance crime fighting across the nation by enabling samples from different jurisdictions to be cross-matched.

“The Northern Territory agreement is a significant step in improving the clear up rate of unsolved crimes.”

The final details of how the exchanges will take place are currently being finalised between the two Police services.

“Presenting a united front in the fight against crime will benefit Territorians and Queenslanders, and I’m hopeful agreements will be forged with other jurisdictions,” said Mr Henderson.

Mr Henderson said the Northern Territory also had similar DNA exchange agreements with the Tasmanian and Western Australian Governments, and discussions are continuing with South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

Ms Spence said Queensland was in the process of signing agreements with South Australia and Tasmania and signed an agreement with Western Australia last year.