

Letter read by Ms Gail Hickey on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in the NSW Legislative Council Select Committee "Inquiry into the high level of First Nations People in Custody and oversight and review of Deaths in Custody"

Firstly, I would like to thank the Legislative Council for the opportunity to put in the open the Shameful history of this country in their relations with the Aboriginal People.

But I have a question for this Committee to be passed to the Chamber and all the other members of this parliament.

My son TJ Hickey was killed more than 16 years ago on 14 February 2004. He was 17 years old. The desperate feeling, - the deep pain and trauma that fell on all my family, included myself - has never ceased.

The loss of a son, grandson, brother and an uncle, never has been so clear than now, when a number of Grandkids'- who have illuminated my life - they have started asking: Who is Uncle TJ? Where is UncleTJ?

The need for Justice which came from the pain, trauma and particularly the terrible loss that TJ death brought to us has been the motor that has kept, me and my family fighting.

But the question here is:. Why this Inquiry now? Why not a TJ inquiry?

Here has been 16 years of marching, the signatures of 12,000 of NSW residents, a memorial which doesn't even have my preferred plaque, because the NSW police opposed it.

Document tendered by <i>Clare</i>
Received by <i>Taylah Cauchi</i>
Date: <i>27/10/20</i>
Resolved to publish Yes / No

Two forensic reviews, both done by the same person who conducted the inquest. But, always, with the same result.

Why has all the information about the petition been removed from the Parliament website, never made public, all because the leader of the majority of the Legislative Council decided so? With no discussion.

The procedures for petitions to Legislative Council, includes; when the response is received, the Petition has to be reported to the house. When was received? Then has to be published. When and where was published? And, where is the petition? Probably is buried somewhere.

ISJA received a copy of a letter of Mr Mark Speakman, (Attorney General?) addressed to Mr David Blunt apparently Clerk of the Parliament and the Legislative Council. This letter is manually signed on 27 November 2019, illegible signature, and with the note: "On behalf of clerk of Parliament. (Copy Attached)

So where is due process in this chamber? Would this inquiry also be buried somewhere, if the majority decides that it's not in the interest of the government of turn? Why this inquiry then?

Mrs Gail Hickey

27 Oct 2020