



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CORONIAL JURISDICTION IN NEW SOUTH WALES

MEDIA RELEASE

SUBMISSIONS OPEN FOR THE INQUIRY INTO THE CORONIAL JURISDICTION IN NSW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13 May 2021

An Upper House Select Committee has been established to inquire into and report on the coronial jurisdiction in New South Wales.

The Hon Adam Searle MLC, Chair of the Select Committee said, "Following the committee's recent inquiry into the high level of First Nations people in custody and oversight and review of deaths in custody, it was clear that the coronial jurisdiction was in dire need of a comprehensive review, having not been reviewed since 1975."

"Our Select Committee will undertake a root and branch review of the coronial jurisdiction in this state. In particular, we will look at the law, practice and operation of the Coroner's Court of NSW, with the aim of seeing whether there are any changes to the coronial jurisdiction which are desirable or necessary. This will include looking at the adequacy of its resources and timeliness of its decisions, as well as the courts ability to respond to the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse communities, along with First Nations families and communities. The Select Committee will also inquire into the most appropriate institutional arrangements for the coronial jurisdiction, such as whether it should be a standalone court, an autonomous division of the Local Court, or some other arrangement," said the Chair.

The Chair concluded, "As was seen in our previous inquiry, a lack of funding and resourcing of the NSW Coroner's Court is significantly impacting on the timeliness of inquests, and causing undue stress on the families involved. It is extremely important that this is improved and that the coronial jurisdiction in New South Wales is functioning at a highly effective level and is modernised to meet the needs of our community."

The committee welcomes submissions from interested stakeholders and members of the community. The closing date for submissions is **Sunday 27 June 2021**, with public hearings to take place later in the year. For further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference and hearing dates and locations, please visit the committee's [website](#).

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For further information please contact Committee, the Hon Adam Searle MLC, on 0418 381 636