

INQUIRY INTO CORONIAL JURISDICTION IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Date Received: 22 June 2021

My son died under tragic circumstances in 2018.

My submission to this inquiry relates to the Coroner's obligation to the public at large. The Coroner's role is to investigate untimely deaths and to gather statistical evidence regarding causes and rates of fatalities in NSW. Coronial investigations can lead to insightful recommendations that may prevent further deaths due to specific causes.

My son's death was directly attributable to two specific causes. I was informed by the NSW Coroners office in Ballina that these blatantly obvious causes of his untimely death were outside of the terms of reference of any Coronial investigation.

1) My son was a victim of the government's (illegal) Centrelink Robodebt policies. This very large and ridiculously unfair claim on my son caused him extreme anxiety.

Apparently 2,000 other Australians shared his fate. Why is the Coroner's Office not interested in these deaths?

2) Mental Health Malpractice.

My very distressed son was hospitalised for 28 days without the underlying cause of his anxiety being addressed. He was then given a month's supply of 3 different varieties of dangerous antipsychotic drugs in a plastic shopping bag and discharged from the Byron Bay Mental Health Unit on the busy Easter weekend. He was going to rent a room he'd seen advertised. But Centrelink had drained his bank account again that day. They had been doing this to him without notice for years! He had done nothing wrong to deserve this debt. He was just too shy and distressed to fight it.

I found my son dead in a tent surrounded by 100's of empty pill blisters. It was all too tragically obvious what had killed him. Yet the Coronial report stated that his cause of death was unknown. The toxicology report - inconclusive..

IF THE CORONER'S JOB IS TO HELP PREVENT UNNECESSARY DEATHS IN THIS STATE - THEN THEY SHOULD BE GATHERING ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT DEATHS INVOLVING PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS THAT LIST SUICIDE AS A POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECT ON THE PACKET!

Overdosing on prescribed psychiatric medications makes suicide way too easy.

I have heard of so many others besides my own innocent persecuted son who have died from similar causes. They sought help from NSW Mental HEALTH Service and ultimately only received the help they needed to end their suffering once and for all.

How can anything be done about this and future deaths prevented if evidence of correlation and cause of death is not confirmed or recorded? We have no statistics on how many people died due to prescription overdoses because the coroner is failing to record them. THERE COULD BE THOUSANDS OF THESE PREVENTABLE DEATHS OCCURRING IN NSW EVERY YEAR.

I remain horrified at the inadequate investigation into these matters by the NSW Coroner's Office. My grief is still palpable. My faith in government agencies to act in the best interests of the public has been shattered beyond repair.

Should I now fear that this submission, which I write through still streaming tears, will also be found to be outside of the terms of reference of this inquiry and be completely ignored too?