

**Submission  
No 15**

**INQUIRY INTO CORONIAL JURISDICTION IN NEW  
SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Mr Mark Leveson

**Date Received:** 7 July 2021

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Some background to my situation. My family and I were directly involved with the NSW Coroners Court from 2015 through to 2017 for the Inquest into the death of our son, Matthew John Leveson.

As novices to this process it was put to us that we should have some form of legal representation for the family during the course of the inquest. Fearing the Inquest may carry on beyond the two weeks set down and the daily cost of lawyers, we sought legal aid. We did not qualify, as our income and assets breached the threshold for assistance NOR was it considered a public interest matter.

I decided to represent the family myself and sought leave from the court to do just that. It was granted by Coroner Truscott.

I guess this is not a path that all would consider themselves suitable for but after fighting to find our son for so many years we had a "nothing's going to stop us now" attitude.

For the eight years since our Matt disappeared until the commencement the inquest we had made (and paid for) numerous requests to GIPA for information relating to Matt's case. We never ever received what we asked for, being knocked back on every occasion.

As counsel for the family I received the full brief of evidence and copies of every submission made the court. Accordingly, I received everything I had ever requested from GIPA and voluminous amounts more.

We feel, by taking a very active part in the process, we contributed to the locating of our son's remains and had a lot (not all) of our questions answered.

The point I want to make is that there is an alternative to Legal Aid or paid representation and many other victims we have spoken to or advocated for are not aware of that.

I'd like it made known to victims that, those who so desire, do have a very viable and rewarding option.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.