

**Submission
No 62**

INQUIRY INTO CORONIAL JURISDICTION IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW

Date Received: 16 March 2022

Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW Inc.



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Select Committee on the Coronial
Jurisdiction in New South Wales; Inquiry
into the coronial jurisdiction in New
South Wales

**Submission of Ethnic Communities'
Council of New South Wales**

March 2022

16 March 2022

Dear Select Committee on the Coronial Jurisdiction in New South Wales,

Re: Inquiry into the coronial jurisdiction in New South Wales

The Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW (ECC NSW) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on this matter; please find below our submission.

The ECC NSW is the State-wide peak body representing culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. Our membership comprises of hundreds of organisations and individuals representing new, emerging and established communities; our core activities include advocacy, education and community development.

We confine our comments to section 1(a)(v) of the terms of reference, having regard to “the ability of the court to respond to the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse and First Nations families and communities.”

We are making this submission as we are of the view that practices accounting for and sensitive to the numerous and particular needs and traditions of minority communities are tantamount to effective engagement with the court.

From an accessibility standpoint the ability of persons to engage with the court necessitates the availability of numerous in-language resources explaining the role and functions of the court, how to navigate the court and, where necessary, the utilisation of interpretation services. Absent these persons undergoing the most sensitive experiences of their lives will neither be able to engage effectively for the purposes of their welfare or that of their loved ones nor provide the assistance expected by the court.

We note in particular the significance of the above arrangements and related funding as regards rural and regional areas, moreover in light of rural and regional population growth spurred by migrant and refugee communities.

Such provision need be accompanied by mechanisms accounting for unique sensitives in light of the mourning and related practices of particular communities. Expediency of burial, treatment of remains and the presence of clergy are requirements of numerous cultural, religious and ethno-religious communities and it is the desire of communities across NSW to work constructively with authorities.

Culturally responsive training and an emphasis on officers with knowledge and awareness of the particular impacts on and needs of CALD families and communities need be tantamount, as will timely and effecting messaging accounting for the presence and particular requirements of multicultural communities in NSW.

It is our recommendation that ongoing, formalised consultation with community, roof and representative bodies can ensure best practice impacting both very established as well as new and emerging communities. The development of adequate, current accompanying resources, both for public consumption and court application, are crucial.

We are available should you seek any clarification or have any queries regarding our submission or further to the above, or if we can otherwise assist further.

Yours,

Peter Doukas OAM
ECCNSW CHAIR