NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CORONER

State Coroner's COVID-19 Memorandum No 4

Management of court listings at Lidcombe during the COVID-19 pandemic

The NSW State Coroner, Teresa O'Sullivan, has advised the following procedures will apply in relation to the conduct of coronial proceedings at the Lidcombe Forensic Medicine and Coroners Court Complex (FMCCC), for matters listed from 1 November 2021 up to and including 24 January 2022.

The aim of these directions is to reduce the risk of infection at the FMCCC and in the community.

The operation of the Forensic Medicine and Coroners Court Complex at Lidcombe is essential and business continuity regarding the admission, examination and release of deceased persons is paramount.

1. Masks must be worn in the FMCCC.

2. All parties, legal representatives and family members may appear via AVL or audio link and are encouraged to do so.

3. If the counsel assisting team can attend court safely then they are permitted to do so.

4. Attendance in person for coronial proceedings at the FMCCC will only be permitted if the proceedings can be conducted safely, after consideration of the following factors:

    - Any COVID-19 Public Health Orders or restrictions
    - The number of people involved
    - The size and configuration of the court room and whether physical distancing is possible
    - Any other factor relevant to the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus to anyone at the FMCCC

5. The Chief Magistrate's Court Security Act Order in accordance with section 7(1) (b) of the Court Security Act 2005 applies.

6. These procedures will continue to be reviewed and modified if needed.

Magistrate Teresa O'Sullivan

NSW State Coroner

25 October 2021