



**CORONER'S COURT  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Inquest:** Inquest into the suspected death of missing person Jasmine Morris

**Hearing dates:** 16 to 19 November 2020 at Coffs Harbour

**Date of findings:** 2 December 2020

**Place of findings:** Coroner's Court of New South Wales at Lidcombe

**Findings of:** Magistrate Derek Lee, Deputy State Coroner

**Catchwords:** CORONIAL LAW – whether missing person now deceased, date and place of death, cause and manner of death, missing persons investigations, Unsolved Homicide Team, Missing Persons Standard Operating Procedures

**File number:** 2012/362107

**Representation:** Ms M Gerace, Counsel Assisting instructed by Ms C Potocki (Crown Solicitor's Office)

Mr R Coffey for New South Wales Commissioner of Police instructed by Makinson d'Apice

**Findings:** On the available evidence I find that Jasmine Morris, who was reported as a missing person on 20 October 2009, is now deceased. Jasmine died on a date unknown sometime on or after 6 October 2009. The available evidence does not allow for any finding to be made as to the place of Jasmine's death. The available evidence and the absence of any postmortem examination also does not allow for any finding to be made as to the cause or manner of Jasmine's death.

**Recommendations:**

***To the New South Wales Commissioner of Police:***

I recommend that the New South Wales Commissioner of Police cause the investigation into the suspected death of missing person Jasmine Morris be referred to the State Crime Command Unsolved Homicide Team and the State Crime Command Missing Persons Registry for the allocation of specialist consultants to review the matter and to assist the Grafton Detectives in the ongoing investigation. I further recommend that a copy of the brief of evidence and transcript of the *Inquest into the suspected death of missing person Jasmine Morris* be provided to the Unsolved Homicide Team and Missing Persons Registry for this purpose.

**Non-publication orders:**

See Appendix A.

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Jasmine Morris was a young Aboriginal woman who was only 19 years old when she last seen by her mother on 6 October 2009. Jasmine was later reported missing 14 days later. In the 11 years since Jasmine was last seen alive numerous rumours and theories have circulated as to what happened to her. Despite a number of enquiries having been made by police investigators over the years as part of the missing person investigation to locate Jasmine, no reliable evidence has been uncovered as to Jasmine's whereabouts or as to precisely what happened to her after October 2009.

## 2. Why was an inquest held?

2.1 In July 2011, after all existing lines of enquiry to locate Jasmine had apparently been exhausted, the NSW Police Force (**NSWPF**) notified the Coroner that Jasmine was suspected of being deceased. When the case of a missing person, who is suspected to have died, is reported to a Coroner, the Coroner must determine from the available evidence whether that person has in fact died. In such cases there will often be very little information, despite extensive enquiries, about what happened to the person after they were last seen alive.

2.2 If a Coroner forms the view that a missing person has died then the Coroner has an obligation to make findings in order to answer questions about the identity of the person who died, when and where they died, and what the cause and the manner of their death was. The manner of a person's death means the circumstances in which that person died. If the coroner is unable to answer these questions then an inquest must be held.<sup>1</sup>

2.3 In Jasmine's case, extensive investigation was conducted by the police concerning the circumstances surrounding the period both before and after when she was last seen alive. However, this investigation was unable to reveal exactly what happened to Jasmine after October 2009. As it has not been possible to answer the questions that a Coroner is required to answer, it became mandatory for an inquest to be held.

2.4 In this context it should be recognised at the outset that the operation of the *Coroners Act 2009* (**the Act**), and the coronial process in general, represents an intrusion by the State into what is usually one of the most traumatic events in the lives of family members who have reported a loved one as missing. At such times, it is reasonably expected that families will wish to attempt to cope with the consequences of such a traumatic event in private. The sense of loss experienced by family members does not diminish significantly over time. Therefore, it should be acknowledged that both the coronial process and an inquest by their very nature unfortunately compel a family to re-live distressing memories and to do so in a public forum.

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<sup>1</sup> *Coroners Act 2009*, section 27.

### **3. Jasmine's life**

- 3.1 As will be discussed later in these findings, all of the evidence gathered to date suggests, tragically, that Jasmine is now deceased. Inquests into the deaths of persons, even those persons who are missing and suspected of being deceased, by their very nature only tend to focus on the last moments of a person's life, or the last moments when they were seen alive. These moments are sometimes measured in weeks or months, but more often they are measured in hours and days. As a consequence, often there is very little known about the (usually) years of life that preceded these final moments. Therefore, it is appropriate at this stage to recognise Jasmine's life in a brief, but hopefully meaningful, way.
- 3.2 Jasmine was born on 18 February 1990 in Victoria to her parents, Donna Geoghegan and Byron Moore. Mr Moore was not involved in Jasmine's life or her upbringing. Jasmine initially lived in Shepparton, Victoria and later moved with her mother to Coffs Harbour. When Jasmine was eight years old she and her mother, together with Jasmine's younger sister, Lisa, moved to Grafton.
- 3.3 Jasmine initially attended Grafton Primary School and later South Grafton High School before leaving in year 8 when she was 14 years old.
- 3.4 Despite the personal challenges that Jasmine experienced from a young age she was described as a beautiful girl who had matured into a lovely young woman. Donna described Jasmine as someone who was always willing to make time for others, and selflessly put the needs of others ahead of her own.
- 3.5 It is clear that Jasmine is much loved and greatly missed by her family members, in particular Donna and Lisa. It is upsetting to know that the years of uncertainty that have followed since Jasmine was last seen alive has been extremely difficult for both Donna and Lisa to bear.

### **4. Background to the report of Jasmine as a missing person**

- 4.1 Jasmine was the alleged victim of two sexual assaults, one when she was only 12 years old, the other when she was 16 years old.
- 4.2 After leaving school Jasmine began to drink alcohol and smoke cannabis on a regular basis. Jasmine had her first interaction with police in December 2002. Between this date and 28 September 2009 Jasmine had a number of further interactions with police, resulting in her being arrested 13 times for a variety of property, and other, offences. Some of these interactions resulted in Jasmine appearing before the Children's Court, with one matter resulting in Jasmine's detention in custody for approximately three months after being bail refused.
- 4.3 After initially smoking cannabis it appears that Jasmine began using methylamphetamine and intravenous illicit drugs sometime in 2007. Donna noted that this occurred after Jasmine became involved with a man, Doug Marsden, who lived at a caravan park in Grafton.

- 4.4 Sometime in late 2007 or early 2008 Donna noted that Jasmine ceased using intravenous drugs (but continued to smoke cannabis) after Mr Marsden was incarcerated. Following this, Jasmine moved into her own caravan at the caravan park. However, sometime later Jasmine began using intravenous drugs again.
- 4.5 In 2008 Jasmine also reportedly began frequenting an all-night service station located on the Pacific Highway, South Grafton and met with a number of truck drivers in order to hitchhike. It has been suggested that Jasmine may have also engaged in this behaviour to trade sex in exchange for money in order to buy drugs. One such truck driver that Jasmine met was Desmond Euen, who lived in Brisbane at the time. Jasmine and Mr Euen later formed a sexual relationship. Over the following 12 months, Jasmine frequently visited Mr Euen in Brisbane, often staying for weeks at a time. This relationship later ended in about April 2009.
- 4.6 In 2009 Jasmine was known to frequent the area around the Post Office Hotel in South Grafton where she apparently sought to obtain money, drugs and alcohol from other persons who also frequented the area. During this period Jasmine was known to associate with the following persons, many of whom were, like Jasmine, illicit drug users:
- (a) Her older brother, Daniel Geoghegan, and Mr Geoghegan's girlfriend, Dominica Suey;
  - (b) Alma Walker, one of Jasmine's closest friends;
  - (c) Virginia Simpson (also known as "Vinnie"), one of Mr Geoghegan's associates, and Ms Simpson's partner, Scott Williams (also known as "Willow");
  - (d) Kevin Blanch (also known as "Blanchie"); and
  - (e) Clarence Drew (also known as Clarry).
- 4.7 It is evident from the above that by October 2009 Jasmine was a highly vulnerable person. She had a relatively lengthy history of illicit drug use for someone of a young age; she had had a number of interactions with police, including time spent in detention; she had formed volatile relationships with much older men; she had engaged in risk-taking behaviour in order to acquire money and drugs; and she lived an itinerant lifestyle and frequently associated with other persons who also engaged in illicit drug use.

## 5. The missing person report

- 5.1 As noted above, Jasmine lived a largely itinerant lifestyle and was known to keep her personal belongings at different locations where she stayed temporarily. In the weeks leading up to Jasmine going missing she had been staying in a spare room at the home of Charmaine Harris, one of Donna's friends. However, Jasmine only stayed at Ms Harris' house intermittently and often stayed with other persons at different locations. Ms Harris last saw Jasmine on the morning of 29 September 2009 when Jasmine left the house at around 6:00am.

- 5.2 After this date, it appears that Jasmine went to stay with a friend, Rennie Cameron, during the last two weeks in September 2009. Again, Jasmine only stayed with Mr Cameron intermittently. Mr Cameron last saw Jasmine on 2 October 2009.
- 5.3 On this date, Donna and Lisa moved from a women's refuge to a unit at 3/49 Chapman Street, Grafton. It appears that Jasmine went to stay with Donna and Lisa for the four nights leading up to 6 October 2009.
- 5.4 Donna last saw Jasmine on the afternoon of Tuesday, 6 October 2009, when Jasmine left home at around 3:00pm, informing her mother that she was going to the pub. At the time Jasmine was wearing a long black skirt, a purple shirt and was carrying a black coloured Roxy brand backpack. Donna noted that Jasmine did not appear to be under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time.
- 5.5 On 20 October 2009, after not having seen Jasmine for about two weeks, Donna went to Grafton police station and reported Jasmine as missing. Police attempted to call Jasmine a number of times on her mobile phone without any answer. Donna provided police with two phone numbers that had been written on a piece of paper by Jasmine. Police subsequently called both numbers and discovered that they belonged to truck drivers who had had previous interactions with Jasmine. However both truck drivers indicated that they had not seen or spoken to Jasmine for about a month.

## **6. The initial missing person investigation**

- 6.1 Enquiries made by police during the initial stages of the missing person investigation revealed the following:
- (a) Mr Geoghegan told police that he spoke to Jasmine on the phone on the afternoon of 6 October 2009 and told her to meet him at the Post Office Hotel. Mr Geoghegan informed police that he later met Jasmine as arranged, and subsequently saw Jasmine again at the Bi-Lo Complex (**the Bi-Lo**) in South Grafton sometime between 3:00pm and 4:00pm. At this time Mr Geoghegan reported seeing Jasmine talking to an unknown male person who he had not seen before, and who was seated in the driver's seat of a white coloured van.
- (b) Mr Drew told police that he saw Jasmine sometime in the morning on 6 October 2009 outside the Post Office Hotel. Mr Drew asserted that Jasmine asked him if he knew anyone who might be able to supply her with illicit drugs. Mr Drew told Jasmine that he did not and Jasmine reportedly said that she would see if she could find any such person herself and that she would see Mr Drew later
- (c) Jasmine last accessed her bank account on 28 September 2009 when she withdrew her fortnightly Centrelink payment. This was in accordance with Jasmine's usual practice of withdrawing her Centrelink payment on the same day that it was paid into her account. A subsequent Centrelink payment was deposited into Jasmine's account on 7 October 2009.

However, it was not withdrawn. At the time of the last withdrawal Jasmine's account had a balance of \$350.26.

- (d) On 2 November 2009 police conducted a canvass of South Grafton shopping centre in an attempt to locate CCTV footage from 6 October 2009. This initial canvas did not yield anything of investigative value. However, investigating police subsequently obtained CCTV footage from the Bi-Lo for 6 October 2009. A review of this footage showed no evidence of Jasmine being at the Bi-Lo on this date.
- (e) Also on 2 November 2009 an initial media release was circulated with Jasmine reported as missing. A number of further media releases were circulated over the subsequent 10 days with police only receiving a minimal public response to each release, and no information considered to be of investigative value.
- (f) Members of the public reported to police a number of sightings of Jasmine. For example, Gary Brown, the Grafton Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer, knew Jasmine and reported that he believed that he saw her on the afternoon of 29 October 2009 in South Grafton in the company of an unknown male. However Mr Brown did not speak to Jasmine and could not be certain that he saw her. Similarly, Jasmine was reportedly seen at the Grafton Ex-Servicemens club on 3 November 2009 (Melbourne Cup Day) with a number of other female persons. None of the reported sightings of Jasmine were able to be verified by police.

## 7. Significant matters identified over the course of the police investigation

7.1 As Jasmine's missing person investigation involves consideration of some information which is of a sensitive nature it is not proposed in these findings to recount in detail every aspect of the police investigation. Rather, set out below is a summary of significant matters identified over the course of the police investigation. It should be emphasised that this summary in no way reflects the extent of the investigation that has taken place in an attempt to identify what happened to Jasmine after she was reported missing, or the loss which has been, and continues to be, felt by Jasmine's family and friends.

- (a) Pamela Cutmore was previously in a relationship with Mr Drew, and they had a number of children and grandchildren. In April 2018 Ms Cutmore told police about an incident involving Mr Drew which concerned Jasmine. Ms Cutmore initially declined to provide a statement to police, but subsequently did so in January 2020. In this statement, Ms Cutmore said that Mr Drew came to stay with her shortly before July 2017. Mr Drew had recently suffered a heart attack and been discharged from hospital with a terminal diagnosis. Mr Drew went to stay with Ms Cutmore so that he could spend some time with his grandchildren before his death.

According to Ms Cutmore, Mr Drew told her that he had been in the South Grafton marina area along the Clarence River near the Walkers Marina Hotel (**Walkers**). This area is commonly referred to as the **Sunshine Bar**, amongst other names. Mr Drew said that he was at the Sunshine Bar with Jasmine, Mr Blanch, Ms Walker, Ms Simpson and Mr Geoghegan one evening. According to Mr Drew the persons present had been consuming alcohol and using methamphetamine. At some stage there was a verbal altercation between Jasmine and Ms



Simpson which escalated to a physical altercation and resulted in Jasmine's death. Mr Drew reported that the persons present then disposed of Jasmine's body in the nearby river. Ms Cutmore gave evidence that after Mr Drew made this disclosure he told her to tell Mr Geoghegan that he needed to "*do what's right*" and tell the truth.

- (b) Shortly before Jasmine was reported missing she was seen one afternoon in Spring Street, South Grafton by Sharon Ross, an employee of Clarence Valley Funerals. Ms Ross told police that she saw Jasmine arguing with a female person believed to be Ms Simpson. According to Ms Ross, Jasmine was verbally abused and threatened by Ms Simpson due to Ms Simpson's belief that Jasmine had been engaged in sexual activity with Mr Williams, Ms Simpson's partner at the time.
- (c) Leanne Bowles is a friend of Ms Simpson and knew Jasmine as one of Ms Simpson's associates. Lisa Westley, who previously lived with Ms Simpson, also knew Jasmine in this capacity. Both Ms Bowles and Ms Westley also previously lived at Walkers. Both also describe what appear to be separate incidents where they observed Jasmine and Ms Simpson engaged in a heated verbal argument in the vicinity of the Sunshine Bar. On Ms Bowles' version of events the argument escalated to a physical confrontation which required Jasmine and Ms Simpson to be separated. It appears that these altercations originated due to Ms Simpson's belief that Jasmine and Mr Williams had been engaging in sexual activity.
- (d) Ms Suey told police that sometime in June 2016 Mr Blanch informed her of an occasion when Jasmine, Ms Walker and other persons were at Mr Blanch's property consuming alcohol and using drugs. Ms Suey said that, according to the version of events described by Mr Blanch, Jasmine became unresponsive after using illicit drugs. She was found to have no pulse and was considered to be deceased. According to Mr Blanch, Jasmine was placed in a car and taken to a property belonging to Mr Blanch's father where she was buried.

Heidi Benn, who had previously been in a relationship with Mr Blanch, told police that she had heard a similar version of events from a number of people. According to this version Jasmine had experienced a drug overdose whilst she was with Mr Geoghegan and Ms Simpson, and Mr Blanch had used Ms Benn's car to assist in disposing of Jasmine's body.

Investigating police subsequently conducted a search of a property belonging to Mr Blanch which did not produce any evidence that Jasmine was buried on the property, or any evidence that corroborated the above reports.

- (e) Other persons, including Ms Simpson, also told police about a similar rumour that Jasmine had died whilst engaging in drug-taking activity during a party at Mr Blanch's property. According to this version of events, after Jasmine was found to be deceased she was taken to South West Rocks where her body was disposed of in the ocean.
- (f) The rumour that Jasmine had suffered a drug overdose manifested itself in different versions. On one version, according to Ms Benn, Jasmine had overdosed in a public toilet in the vicinity of the Sunshine Bar whilst at least Mr Geoghegan, Ms Simpson and Mr Williams were present.

On other version, according to Ms Westley, Jasmine had overdosed at the home of Ms Simpson and Mr Williams. According to each version, Jasmine's body was subsequently disposed of in the Clarence River, with the area under the Grafton Bridge nominated as a likely disposal site.

- (g) According to yet another rumour, Jasmine was intentionally given an excessive quantity of illicit drugs (known as a "hotshot") and her body then disposed of.
- (h) Finally, according to other rumours, associates of Ms Simpson (such as Ms Bowles) report that Ms Simpson becoming agitated during a return trip from Cessnock to Grafton. According to this version of events Ms Simpson became agitated due to passing the location (variously described as somewhere between Kempsey and Macksville) where Jasmine had been buried.

7.2 It can be seen from the above that several rumours and theories have circulated, largely within the Grafton community, in the years since Jasmine was reported missing. Despite police investigation, little evidence has been discovered which corroborates any of the rumours or which is considered to be of investigative value.

7.3 Several of the persons mentioned above, who heard the rumours or were mentioned or implicated in them, gave evidence during the inquest.<sup>2</sup> However, it is not possible to perform any meaningful qualitative assessment of their evidence for a number of reasons:

- (a) First, many of the persons who gave evidence (with the exception of Ms Ross) were involved in drug-taking activity at the relevant time. As a result, some witnesses readily conceded that they were poor historians and that their version of events may, therefore, be unreliable.
- (b) Second, there is little by way of objective evidence to verify or corroborate any of the details mentioned in the rumours.
- (c) Third, most of the rumours are lacking in detail or specifics to separate them from mere gossip.
- (d) Fourth, it became clear during the evidence that the memories of some witnesses (in conjunction with a history of illicit drug use) were adversely affected by the time that has passed since information was first provided to police.

7.4 As a result, neither the police investigation nor the inquest has been able to effectively separate rumour from verifiable fact. This in turn has prevented any conclusion being reached, even on the balance of probabilities, as to the precise circumstances in which Jasmine went missing, or what happened to her on or after 6 October 2009.

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<sup>2</sup> It should be noted that prior to the inquest several persons were notified that they were considered to have a sufficient interest in the subject matter of the proceedings, but that no leave was sought from any of these persons in accordance with s 57(1) of the *Coroners Act 2009*.

## 8. Is Jasmine now deceased?

8.1 A finding that a person is deceased is a finding of great significance and gravity, not only for the family members of that person and the emotional toll that such a finding will invariably bring, but also because such a finding carries with it important legal and administrative consequences. Such a finding is made on the balance of probabilities, but there must be clear, cogent and exact evidence that a person has died before it can be made.<sup>3</sup>

8.2 A consideration of the available evidence gathered during the course of the investigation into Jasmine being reported missing reveals the following important matters:

- (a) Despite extensive and comprehensive physical, documentary and electronic searches no evidence has been uncovered as to either Jasmine's whereabouts or her being alive after October 2009. These searches have included what are commonly described as "signs of life checks". These checks involve enquiries being made with financial institutions, government organisations such as Medicare, and interstate law enforcement agencies to identify whether there are any records indicating that a missing person has had some interaction with these organisations and institutions. Each of these checks has not produced any evidence that Jasmine is still alive.
- (b) Jasmine was a young woman who was highly vulnerable, living an itinerant lifestyle and engaged in risk-taking activity such as illicit drug use, associating with persons who were also engaged in illicit drug use, and engaging in sexual activity with older men and/or persons she was unfamiliar with in order to obtain money and drugs.
- (c) Jasmine's bank account has not been accessed since 28 September 2009 in circumstances where Jasmine would routinely withdraw her Centrelink payment on the day that it was deposited. Despite this, the 7 October 2009 Centrelink payment deposited into Jasmine's account on 7 October 2009 has not been accessed.
- (d) Given the above, there is no evidence that since October 2009 Jasmine has obtained any financial means to support herself, found any accommodation or managed to provide for basic living needs. Of course, as already noted, Jasmine engaged in sexual activity for money. However, there is no evidence of this continuing after October 2009.
- (e) Since October 2009 Jasmine has not made contact with any member of her family. This is in circumstances where Jasmine was known to be close to her mother and younger sister, and also known to see Mr Geoghegan on a regular basis, and contact him on a daily basis. There is no plausible explanation as to why Jasmine has not made contact with any of her family members for over 11 years.
- (f) Although Jasmine had her belongings stored at several different locations by October 2009, there is no evidence that she has sought to retrieve any of her belongings. Indeed, Ms Harris

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<sup>3</sup> *Briginshaw v Briginshaw* (1938) 60 CLR 336.

gave evidence that she disposed of the belongings that Jasmine had left at her home a few months after Jasmine had been reported missing.

(g) Since October 2009 several rumours have persisted, primarily within the local community at Grafton and South Grafton that Jasmine is now deceased either as a result of misadventure or due to suspicious circumstances.

8.3 Having regard to the matters set out above, the conclusion that must, sadly, be reached is that, on the balance of probabilities, Jasmine is now deceased. It is a significant part of this conclusion that in more than 11 years since Jasmine was last known to be alive, despite repeated checks, no evidence has been found of any signs of life. Indeed, to the extent that any reliance at all can be placed on the rumours that have circulated since Jasmine was reported missing it is noted that they all consistently refer to the fact that Jasmine is now deceased.

## **9. When and where did Jasmine die?**

9.1 Having concluded that Jasmine is now deceased, the questions that now arise, as part of the function of the coronial jurisdiction, is whether the available evidence allows for any finding to be made as to where and when Jasmine died, and the cause and manner of her death.

9.2 The last confirmed sighting of Jasmine was on 6 October 2009. Although other persons made reports to police of having seen Jasmine after this date, these reports have not been able to be confirmed. As no sign of Jasmine has been found after October 2009, the only conclusion that can be reached is that she died sometime on or after 6 October 2009.

9.3 As Jasmine has not been found, and because there is obviously limited evidence as to what occurred after 6 October 2009 the available evidence does not allow for any conclusion to be reached as to where Jasmine died. As noted above, several of the rumours that have circulated since October 2009 have centred around Jasmine dying in the vicinity of the Sunshine Bar and the nearby Clarence River. On one view, this may suggest that the place of Jasmine's death was in the South Grafton area. However, other rumours have suggested that Jasmine may have died at other locations. Accepting that the rumours have not been corroborated, there is still an absence of reliable evidence to allow for a finding to be made as to where Jasmine died.

## **10. What was the cause and manner of Jasmine's death?**

10.1 As to the manner of Jasmine's death, it is commonly the case in coronial matters that the manner of a person's death is determined to be due to either natural causes or misadventure. More uncommonly, the manner of a person's death is determined to be as a result of homicide. In Jasmine's case there is no evidence which establishes that prior to October 2009 she was suffering from any known medical condition which could have accounted for her sudden and unexpected death. Even if this had occurred, it is likely that such an unexpected event would have been witnessed, or that Jasmine would have been discovered by someone and emergency medical assistance sought.

- 10.2 Jasmine was known to use illicit drugs intravenously. This of course carries with it the inherent risk of death due to unintentional overdose, or due to the effects of drug use (such as decreased levels of consciousness, changes in mood and behaviour) which may alter a person's normal functioning. Therefore, the possibility of death due to misadventure in Jasmine's case remains a real possibility. In many cases of drug overdose the person who has succumbed to the toxic effects of drugs is usually either observed to be unresponsive (and emergency services are alerted to provide assistance) or subsequently discovered (by which time it is too late for emergency medical intervention).
- 10.3 If Jasmine had died due to misadventure associated with illicit drug use, there might be a reasonable expectation that she would have been found not long after when she was last known to be alive. This is particularly so in circumstances where Jasmine was known to see family members, friends and associates on a regular basis. However, again due to the rumours that have persisted since October 2009, there is a suggestion that Jasmine died as a result of misadventure associated with illicit drug use and that her body was, for reasons not known, subsequently disposed of. Again, whilst the rumours have not been substantiated, they add a different dimension to the circumstances in which Jasmine went missing. This prevents any conclusion being reached, even on the balance of probabilities, as to the manner of Jasmine's death being due to misadventure.
- 10.4 Jasmine's case is unusual in the sense that the possibility that Jasmine might have died as a result of homicide must be seriously considered in light of information gathered over the course of the missing person investigation. It is of course the case that rumour, gossip and innuendo are not substitutes for cogent, reliable and corroborated evidence. However, if there is one thing that emerges from a consideration of all the rumours that have circulated since October 2009 it is that Jasmine has died in alleged suspicious circumstances. This has been a persistent theme throughout the various rumours, with several versions of the rumours nominating specific persons of interest.
- 10.5 Having regard to the above, and in circumstances where obviously no postmortem examination has been able to be performed, the available evidence does not allow for any finding to be made as to the cause and manner of Jasmine's death. Further, as is explained in more detail below, there is merit in referring Jasmine's case to specialist units within the NSWPF for further investigation. Therefore, an open finding must be made in relation to both the manner and cause of Jasmine's death.
- 10.6 Detective Inspector Glenn Browne, the Manager of the NSWPF Missing Persons Registry (**the MPR**), gave evidence that one of the significant advantages of the MPR is that it sits alongside the NSWPF Homicide Squad within the structure of the NSWPF State Crime Command. If a view is taken that the missing person may have died as a result of homicide, the matter is referred to the on-call Inspector from the Homicide Squad so that a determination can be made as to the involvement of the Homicide Squad (whether, for example, to take over the investigation or merely provide assistance). Detective Inspector Browne acknowledged that Jasmine's case has not, to date, been referred to the Homicide Squad. He gave evidence that, having reviewed aspects of Jasmine's case, he had formed his own suspicions and considered that it would be

beneficial for her case to be referred to the Unsolved Homicide Team. In submissions, counsel for the Commissioner of Police indicated support for such a recommendation being made. Accordingly it is necessary to make the following recommendation.

10.7 **Recommendation:** I recommend that the Commissioner of Police cause the investigation into the suspected death of missing person Jasmine Morris be referred to the State Crime Command Unsolved Homicide Team and the State Crime Command Missing Persons Registry for the allocation of specialist consultants to review the matter and to assist the Grafton Detectives in the ongoing investigation. I further recommend that a copy of the brief of evidence and transcript of the *Inquest into the suspected death of missing person Jasmine Morris* be provided to the Unsolved Homicide Team and Missing Persons Registry for this purpose.

## 11. The nature and adequacy of the police investigation

- 11.1 At the time that Jasmine was reported missing the NSWPF response to missing persons and unidentified human remains investigations was guided by the Missing Persons Unit (MPU), which sat within the Operational Communications Command. In addition, the NSWPF Missing Persons Policies and Procedures 2007 (**the 2007 Policies and Procedures**) were in operation as at October 2009. The 2007 Policies and Procedures articulated the roles and responsibilities of those involved in missing persons investigations and is relevant in relation to the following matters.
- 11.2 First, the 2007 Policies and Procedures provided for both investigating police and MPU staff to conduct a risk assessment for missing person cases. Detective Inspector Browne gave evidence that a risk assessment is the greatest priority for a missing person investigation as it informs the urgency of the police response and assists in the development of an investigative plan to locate the missing person. Detective Inspector Browne also gave evidence that he found no evidence from his review that a formal risk assessment for Jasmine had ever been conducted. However he indicated that this did not necessarily mean that no risk assessment had been performed. Indeed, Detective Inspector Bowne acknowledged that narratives entered in the Computerised Operational System (COPS) by MPU officers appeared to recognise that Jasmine was a vulnerable person and that her safety was at risk.
- 11.3 Second, the 2007 Policies and Procedures also identified senior police officers (such as Investigations Managers, Crime Coordinators, Duty Officers, Crime Managers and Local Area Commanders) as having responsibility to ensure that missing person investigations were properly resourced, managed and supervised. Detective Inspector Browne gave evidence that from the records made available to him as part of his review he could find no evidence of any structured supervision provided during the course of the investigation in Jasmine's case. However, Detective Inspector Browne acknowledged that supervision from senior officers may have been provided at a local level in Grafton. Such supervision may have been recorded in documents which were not available to Detective Inspector Browne, or may have occurred in a less formal, and undocumented, manner. Notwithstanding, Detective Inspector Browne expressed the overall view that if "*appropriate supervision had been provided at the time, [the investigation into Jasmine being reported as missing] should have been concluded in a more timely manner*".

- 11.4 Third, the 2007 Policies and Procedures provided that if all avenues of investigation have been exhausted and there are no signs that a missing person is still alive after 12 months the MPU will liaise with the officer in charge of the missing person investigation to assist with the submission of a brief or reported to the Coroner. In Jasmine's case lost the missing person report was made on 20 October 2009 and entered into the COPS with a case created within the Case Management system on 26 October 2009. The matter was not eventually reported to the Coroner until 26 July 2011. From his review, Detective Inspector Browne concluded that all avenues of investigation had not been exhausted in the 12 months after Jasmine was reported missing. Detective Inspector Browne could find no reason why this did not occur, nor any reason why the MPU did not contact local investigators at the 12 month milestone of Jasmine being reported as missing to discuss the progress of the investigation and the need to report the matter to the Coroner. Ultimately, Detective Inspector Browne was unable to provide any explanation or justification for the 21 months that it took for Jasmine's matter to be reported to the Coroner.
- 11.5 Fourth, the 2007 Policies and Procedures provided that for suspicious cases the MPU was to refer the matter to the Homicide Squad and meet regularly with the Homicide Squad in order to progress the investigation. Again, from his review Detective Inspector Browne found no reference of any such referral having been made.
- 11.6 Ultimately, Detective Inspector Browne expressed the view that the investigation into the report of Jasmine being missing was not conducted in a timely manner. Detective Inspector Bowne noted: "*There may have been competing priorities or responsibilities that contributed to this, however the most significant contributing factor seems to have been a lack of supervision that had a clear responsibility [sic] to ensure the investigation was properly resourced and undertaken in a thorough and timely manner*". However, as noted above, Detective Inspector Browne acknowledged in evidence that some supervision may have been provided on an informal basis or that evidence of documented supervision existed but was not made available in the material which he reviewed.
- 11.7 As to the issue of competing priorities, Detective Senior Sergeant Peter O'Reilly, the investigations manager for the Coffs/Clarence Police District (which covers Grafton police station), provided a statement in which he outlined a number of resourcing and workload challenges in the period between 2009 and 2011 when investigators at Grafton were dealing with a high-volume criminal caseload. Detective Senior Sergeant O'Reilly explained that in 2011 the Coffs/Clarence Police District received a number of additional criminal investigation positions in order to address the identified resource deficiencies. The officer in charge of Jasmine's case, Detective Senior Constable Dale Keam (who has been at Grafton police station since 2011) gave evidence that the additional positions assisted in alleviating some of the workload pressures. Detective Senior Constable Keam also indicated that several more positions had been provided since 2011 and that, at the time of the inquest, he considered that the resourcing of investigators in Grafton was now adequate.
- 11.8 Following an ongoing review of the MPU which commenced in around December 2017 the former MPU was dissolved and in July 2019 the MPR commenced operation as a unit within the State Crime Command. In the latter half of 2019 the MPR created entirely new draft standard operating

procedures (**the Missing Person SOPs**) to guide the NSWPF response to missing person and unidentified human remains investigations. The Missing Persons SOPs came into force in January 2020. As explained by Detective Inspector Browne, they “*are intended as a ‘one-stop’ guide for all police who engage in missing persons, unidentified bodies and human remains investigations*”.

11.9 The Missing Person SOPs have relevantly improved missing person investigations in the following ways:

- (a) Introducing Missing Persons Coordinators within Police Area Commands (**PAC**) to ensure that there is a suitably trained person to coordinate each PAC’s response to missing person investigations. It is part of the responsibilities of the Missing Persons Coordinator to monitor and review all missing persons cases within the PAC, and provide advice and guidance to officers in charge of missing person investigations at the local level.
- (b) Ensuring that MPR personnel review every missing person report recorded on COPS from the previous day. This review process is designed to identify errors, inaccuracies or deficiencies which are then highlighted in a review document that is sent to the officer in charge of the missing person investigation and the relevant Missing Persons Coordinator.
- (c) MPR personnel conduct formal three-month, six-month and nine-month reviews for long-term missing person investigations. These reviews involve the discussion of the entire missing person investigation and result in the production of an agreed set of outcomes which is recorded by the MPR and sent to all review participants. The intention of such reviews is to ensure missing person investigations progress in a timely manner and that all avenues of enquiry are considered and actioned appropriately.

11.10 It is evident from the above that there have been several shortcomings associated with the missing person investigation in Jasmine’s case. Relevantly, guidance and advice was not sought from investigators with expertise in missing person investigations, there was an absence of formal supervision, all avenues of investigation were not exhausted and there was a delay in reporting the matter to the Coroner.

11.11 However, these shortcomings have been addressed by the remedial action that has been taken since at least 2011, both at a resourcing and policy level. In particular the Missing Person SOPs now provide for a more structured system to ensure that missing person investigations are formally reviewed at regular intervals and that specialist investigators assist officers in charge at the local level with effective progression of such investigations. As such, it is considered that there is no scope for any recommendation to be made (other than the one set out above) in relation to the missing person investigation in Jasmine’s case.

## **12. Findings**

12.1 Before turning to the findings that I am required to make, I would like to acknowledge, and express my gratitude to Ms Maria Gerace, Counsel Assisting, and her instructing solicitor, Ms Clara Potocki of the Crown Solicitor’s Office. Their assistance during both the preparation for inquest, and the inquest itself, has been invaluable. I also thank them for the sensitivity and empathy that



they have shown, in particular to Jasmine's family, throughout the course of the coronial process. I also acknowledge the assistance provided by Mr Ryan Coffey, counsel for the Commissioner of Police, during the course of the inquest.

12.2 In addition, I thank Detective Senior Constable Keam for his role in the missing person investigation and for compiling the initial brief of evidence.

12.3 The findings that I make under section 81(1) of the Act are:

***Identity***

The person who died was Jasmine Morris.

***Date of death***

Jasmine died on a date unknown sometime on or after 6 October 2009.

***Place of death***

The available evidence does not allow for any finding to be made as to the place of Jasmine's death.

***Cause of death***

The available evidence and the absence of any postmortem examination does not allow for any finding to be made as to the cause of Jasmine's death.

***Manner of death***

The available evidence and the absence of any postmortem examination does not allow for any finding to be made as to the manner of Jasmine's death.

**13. Epilogue**

13.1 On behalf of the Coroner's Court of New South Wales I extend my sincere and respectful condolences to Jasmine's family and in particular to her mother, Donna, and sister, Lisa. The traumatic experience which family members of a missing person have endured will continue long after the end of an inquest, and until further information about the missing person is obtained. However, it is hoped that the recommendation that has been made in this inquest will assist in providing Jasmine's family with the answers that they are seeking.

13.2 I close this inquest.

Magistrate Derek Lee  
Deputy State Coroner  
2 December 2020  
Coroner's Court of NSW

## Inquest into the suspected death of missing person Jasmine Morris

### Appendix A: Non-publication orders

#### SHORT MINUTES OF ORDER

##### COURT DETAILS

Court	State Coroner's Court of NSW
Registry	Sitting at Coffs Harbour Local Court
Case number	2012/362107

##### TITLE OF PROCEEDINGS

Inquest into the disappearance and suspected death of Jasmine Morris

##### DATE OF JUDGMENT/ORDER

Date made or given 16 November 2020

##### TERMS OF JUDGMENT/ORDER MADE BY THE COURT

Pursuant to s. 74(1)(b) of the *Coroners Act 2009* (NSW), there is to be no publication in any medium of the following:

1. Any phone numbers or addresses of any witnesses or other persons included in the coronial brief of evidence, as identified in Schedule A (extracted below).

##### SEAL AND SIGNATURE

Name	Magistrate Lee
Capacity	Deputy State Coroner of NSW
Date	16 November 2020

##### SCHEDULE 'A'

Key:

- "(ad)" = address/ street name
- "(ph)" = phone
- "(ad & ph)" = address and phone

No.	Name of Witness	Tab References
1.	Donna GEOGHEGAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Volume 1, Tab 1 at p. 2 (ad)</li><li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [182] (ad), [204] (ad), [259] (ad)</li><li>• Volume 1, Tab 3B at [20] (ph), RCCR (ph)</li><li>• Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li><li>• Volume 5, Tab 78 (ph)</li><li>• Volume 7, Tab 178 (ph)</li></ul>
2.	Daniel GEOGHEGAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Volume 1, Tab 1 at p. 2 (ad)</li><li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [32] (ad), [35] (ph), [83] (ph), [97] (ph), [259] (ad)</li></ul>

No.	Name of Witness	Tab References
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 3B at RCCR (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 5 at p. 23 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 12 at p. 13 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 4, Tab 55 at Annexure A (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 4, Tab 59 at Annexure B, Annexure C (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 93 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 94 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 95 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 96 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 97 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 98 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 99 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 100 (ad)</li> </ul>
3.	Lisa MORRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 7 at [4] (ad)</li> </ul>
4.	Virginia SIMPSON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [104] (ad), [110] (ad &amp; ph), [152] (ph), [153] (ph), [154] (ph), [169] (ph), [218] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 3 at [19] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 3B at [17](xxix) (ph), [18] (ph), RCCR (ph), iAsk Request #10139036 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 6 at p. 17 (ad), p. 50 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 8 at cover page (ad), p. 1 (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 9 at p. 53-54 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 10 at cover page (ad), p. 1 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 12 at p. 2 (ad), p. 6 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 14 at cover page (ad), p. 1 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 15 at p. 2-3 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 18 at p. 11 (ad), 26 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 22 at [18] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 27 at p. 9-10 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 45 at [11] (ad), [18] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 46 at [8]-[9] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 4, Tab 55 at Annexure A (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 4, Tab 59 at Annexure B (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 96 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 99 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 100 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 104 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 105 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 106 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 107 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 108 (ph)</li> </ul>

No.	Name of Witness	Tab References
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 109 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 110 (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 111 (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 112 (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 113 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 114 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 115 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 124 (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 127 (ad)</li> </ul>
5.	Kevin BLANCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [128] (ad), [225] (ad), [226]-[227] (ad), [232] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 3 at [30] (ad), Email of 17 May 2018 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 3A at [5] (ad), [7] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 16 at cover page (ad), p. 1 (ad), p. 4-5 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 17 at cover page (ad), p. 1 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 18 at p. 13 (ad), p. 29 (ad), p. 42 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 24 at [3] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 4, Tab 63 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 128 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 129 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 130 (ad)</li> </ul>
6.	Alma WALKER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 18 at p. 20 (ad), p. 36 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 131 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 132 (ad &amp; ph)</li> </ul>
7.	Pamela CUTMORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 3, COPS Event E62443167 (ad &amp; ph)</li> </ul>
8.	Zara NEWELL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [30] (ph), [72] (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 3B at [20] (ph), RCCR (ph), iAsk Request #2916896 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> </ul>
9.	Claire GIBSON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No personal details</li> </ul>
10.	Dominica SUEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [97] (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 5 at p. 23 (ph)</li> </ul>
11.	Charmaine HARRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [20] (ad), [65] (ad), [120] (ad), [203] (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 3B, SF Sobroan Timeline (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 26 at cover page (ad), p. 1-2 (ad), p. 9-10 (ph)</li> </ul>
12.	Rennie CAMERON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [70] (ad), [116] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 27 at cover page (ad), p. 1 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 43 at p. 10 (ad)</li> </ul>
13.	Wayne HOGAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [114] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 28 at cover page (ad), p. 1 (ad)</li> </ul>
14.	Douglas MARSDEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 29 at p. 19 (ph)</li> </ul>
15.	Desmond EUEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [32] (ph), [37] (ph), [188] (ph), [231] (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 30 at p. 4 (ad &amp; ph)</li> </ul>

No.	Name of Witness	Tab References
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 4, Tab 55 at Annexure A (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 134 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 135 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 136 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 137 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 138 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 139 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 140 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 141 (ad)</li> </ul>
16.	Les MOODY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 31 at cover page (ad), p. 1 (ad)</li> </ul>
17.	Marc MAYBERRY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [22] (ph), [45] (ph), [48] (ad &amp; ph), [50] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 3B at [20] (ph), RCCR (ph), iAsk Request #2852238 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 32 at p. 1-2 (ad), p. 4 (ad), p. 11 (ph), subscriber check (ph), CCR/RCCR (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 4, Tab 55 at Annexure A (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 78 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 144 (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 145 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 146 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 147 (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 148 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 149 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 150 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 6, Tab 151 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 152 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 154 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 155 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 156 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 157 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 158 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 159 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 160 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 161 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 162 (ph)</li> </ul>
18.	Neil STORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [169] (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 33 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 4, Tab 55 at Annexure A (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 165 (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 166 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 167 (ad &amp; ph)</li> </ul>
19.	Alan WHITE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [165] (ph), [199] (ph)</li> </ul>

No.	Name of Witness	Tab References
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 3B at [20] (ph), RCCR (ph), iAsk Request #2902442 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 34 at p. 1 (ad), p. 4 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 4, Tab 55 at Annexure A (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 89 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 90 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 168 (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>• Volume 7, Tab 169 (ad)</li> </ul>
20.	Ronald FULLER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [107] (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 3B at [17](xix) (ph), [18] (ph), RCCR (ph), iAsk request #10138986 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 36 at p. 1 (ad), p. 4 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> </ul>
21.	Heidi BENN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [228] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 18 at p. 17 (ad)</li> </ul>
22.	Bryan SIMPSON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [240] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 39 at cover page (ad), p. 1 (ad)</li> </ul>
23.	James SYKES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 3B at [20] (ph), RCCR (ph), iAsk Request #2916890 (ph), iAsk Request #2902461 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 40 at p. 1 (ad &amp; ph), p. 5 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> </ul>
24.	Rodney CUTHEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [115] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 8 at p. 13 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 9 at p. 11-12 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 2, Tab 15 at p. 10 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 41 at cover page (ad), p. 1 (ad)</li> </ul>
25.	Xavier SULLIVAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 42 at p. 1 (ad)</li> </ul>
26.	Peter MARTEENE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 43 at cover page (ad), p. 1 (ad &amp; ph)</li> </ul>
27.	Sharon ROSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No personal details</li> </ul>
28.	Lisa WESTLEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [211] (ad)</li> </ul>
29.	Leanne BOWLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No personal details</li> </ul>
30.	Stanley John ROWLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [119] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 3B at [17](xiii) (ph), [18] (ph), RCCR (ph), iAsk Request #10139020 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 47 at cover page (ad), p. 1 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> </ul>
31.	Adam Francis BARRETT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 2 at [118] (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 40 at p. 8-9 (ad)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 48 at cover page (ad), p. 1 (ad &amp; ph)</li> </ul>
32.	Taylor WHITNEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volume 1, Tab 3B at [17](xv) (ph), [18] (ph), RCCR (ph), iAsk Request #10139014 (ph)</li> <li>• Volume 3, Tab 49 at p. 2 (ph)</li> </ul>

No.	Name of Witness	Tab References
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> </ul>
33.	Bruce DIVERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 2, Tab 14 at p. 4 (ad), p. 6-7 (ad)</li> <li>Volume 3, Tab 50 at cover page (ad), p. 1-17 (ad),</li> </ul>
34.	Crystal McINTYRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 2, Tab 14 at p. 4 (ad)</li> </ul>
35.	Geoff MARTIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No personal details</li> </ul>
36.	Alice COOK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No personal details</li> </ul>
37.	Clayton MUNRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 3, Tab 28 at p. 11 (ad)</li> </ul>
38.	Sarah MASSEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 6, Tab 119 at p. 1 (ad)</li> </ul>
39.	Tarhani PHOLI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No personal details</li> </ul>
40.	Sharon RAMBALDINI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 3B at [20] (ph), RCCR (ph), iAsk Request #2917010 (ph)</li> <li>Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> </ul>
41.	Tess HOLMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [252] (ad)</li> </ul>
42.	Matthew WILLIAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 3B at iAsk Request #10139000 (ph)</li> </ul>
43.	Joseph JEFFREY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No personal details</li> </ul>
44.	Joanne BRISCOMBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [37] (ad)</li> </ul>
45.	Clinton DOWLEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [42] (ph)</li> </ul>
46.	Michelle MAYBERRY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [50] (ad), [183] (ph)</li> <li>Volume 3, Tab 32 at p. 4 (ad)</li> <li>Volume 6, Tab 147 (ad &amp; ph)</li> </ul>
47.	Julianna MATHEWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [51] (ad), [54] (ad), [58] (ad), [183] (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>Volume 7, Tab 153 (ad &amp; ph)</li> </ul>
48.	Michael DICKSON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [69] (ad), [71] (ad)</li> <li>Volume 1, Tab 6 at p. 28 (ad)</li> </ul>
49.	Sara SULLIVAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [69] (ad), [71] (ad)</li> <li>Volume 1, Tab 3B at [17](xxv) (ph), [18] (ph), RCCR (ph), iAsk Request #10138963 (ph)</li> <li>Volume 1, Tab 6 at p. 28 (ad)</li> <li>Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> </ul>
50.	Vicki CAMERON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [70] (ad)</li> </ul>
51.	David COOPER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 3, iAsk Request #9583494 (ph) and CAD incident 042096-21122009 (ph), Triple Zero Call Transcript (ad &amp; ph) [partial redactions made]</li> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [80] (ad)</li> </ul>
52.	Norman LARDNER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [126] (ad)</li> </ul>
53.	Reece OWEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [155] (ad)</li> </ul>
54.	Eric (Optus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [181] (ph)</li> </ul>
55.	Skender HAXHIMOLLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [181] (ph)</li> </ul>
56.	Alyssa PETERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [183] (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>Volume 7, Tab 157 (ph)</li> <li>Volume 7, Tab 158 (ph)</li> <li>Volume 7, Tab 159 (ph)</li> </ul>

No.	Name of Witness	Tab References
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 7, Tab 160 (ph)</li> <li>Volume 7, Tab 161 (ph)</li> </ul>
57.	Joanne BRANSCOMBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [185] (ph)</li> </ul>
58.	Melissa THORNTON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [220] (ad), [224] (ad)</li> </ul>
59.	Kenneth BONNINGTON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [237] (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>Volume 2, Tab 21 at [11] (ad)</li> </ul>
60.	Sarah PARIARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [260] (ad)</li> </ul>
61.	Matthew ROSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [260] (ad)</li> </ul>
62.	Raymond WALKER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 3B at [17](xi) (ph), [18] (ph), RCCR (ph), iAsk Request #10139027</li> <li>Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> </ul>
63.	Matthew WEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 3B at [17](xvii) (ph), [18] (ph)</li> <li>Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> </ul>
64.	Calispa HARRIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 3B at [17](xxii) (ph), [18] (ph)</li> </ul>
65.	Christine HALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 3B at [17](xxiii) (ph), [18] (ph)</li> <li>Volume 1, Tab 5 at p. 9 (ph)</li> </ul>
66.	Patrick DOUGHERTY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 3B at [20] (ph), RCCR (ph), iAsk Request #2916917 (ph)</li> <li>Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> </ul>
67.	Shannon SERGEANT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 6 at p. 19 (ad)</li> </ul>
68.	Wally CHATFIELD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 6 at p. 46 (ad)</li> </ul>
69.	“Nikki and Tony”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 7 at [20] (ad)</li> </ul>
70.	Pete VINIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 2, Tab 8 at p. 26 (ad)</li> </ul>
71.	Brad FERRY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 2, Tab 12 at p. 31 (ad)</li> <li>Volume 2, Tab 13 at p. 24 (ad)</li> </ul>
72.	Graham CONES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 2, Tab 16 at p. 13 (ad)</li> </ul>
73.	“Kimmy”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 2, Tab 18 at p. 33 (ad)</li> </ul>
74.	“Kirsty”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 2, Tab 24 at [22] (ad)</li> </ul>
75.	Johnny WYBORNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 3, Tab 28 at p. 13 (ph)</li> </ul>
76.	“Jay”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 3, Tab 40 at p. 10 (ad)</li> </ul>
77.	Leonie NOBLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 1, Tab 2 at [162] (ad &amp; ph)</li> <li>Volume 1, Tab 3B at RCCR (ph)</li> <li>Volume 5, Tab 77 (ph)</li> <li>Volume 5, Tab 83 (ph)</li> </ul>
78.	Charmaine FLANDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 6, Tab 124 (ad)</li> </ul>
79.	Rhys OWEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 6, Tab 124 (ad)</li> </ul>
80.	Louise CLEMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 6, Tab 133 (ad &amp; ph)</li> </ul>
81.	Mark LAMING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 6, Tab 133 (ad &amp; ph)</li> </ul>
82.	Monique REIMERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 7, Tab 163 at Annexure B (ad &amp; ph)</li> </ul>



## SHORT MINUTES OF ORDER

### COURT DETAILS

Court	Coroners Court of New South Wales
Registry	Lidcombe
Case number	2012/362107

### TITLE OF PROCEEDINGS

Inquest into the disappearance and suspected death of Jasmine Morris

### DATE OF JUDGMENT/ORDER

Date made or given	6 November 2020
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### TERMS OF JUDGMENT/ORDER MADE BY THE COURT

## NOTATIONS

- A. In these orders, “the Sensitive Information” refers to all of the information marked in Confidential Exhibit MF-1 exhibited to the Confidential Affidavit of Assistant Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald affirmed on 2 July 2020 (comprising either the entirety of the document or the specific information highlighted in pink in a particular document, as described at paragraph [20] of the Confidential Affidavit) and the information highlighted in pink in the Indices to the Brief of Evidence as at 19 October 2020 and 5 November 2020.
- B. In these orders, the “Subset of the Sensitive Information” refers to all of the Sensitive Information, with the exception of the Sensitive Information concerning [REDACTED].
- C. The “Sensitive Information concerning [REDACTED]” refers to:
- i. the information marked up in pink [REDACTED] located behind Tab 116 of the Coronial Brief (tab M to MF-1);
  - ii. the information marked up in pink in the P79B – Report of Suspected Death to Coroner dated 26 July 2011, located behind Tab 1 of the Coronial Brief (tab N to MF-1);

- iii. the information marked up in pink in the Index to the Coronial Brief, as at 26 May 2020, in the entry for tab 116 (tab L to MF-1) and in the Indices to the Brief of Evidence as at 19 October 2020 and 5 November 2020 in the entry for tab 116; and
- iv. the information marked up in pink at paragraphs [143]– [148] of the statement of Detective Senior Constable Keam, located behind tab 2 of the Coronial Brief (tab I to MF-1).

## ORDERS

Until further order, the Court orders that:

### Non-disclosure orders

1. Subject to order 2, pursuant to the Coroner’s implied powers, the Sensitive Information is not to be disclosed to any person.
2. Order 1 does not prevent disclosures to and between the following people for the purposes of this Inquest:
  - a. the Deputy State Coroner;
  - b. necessary court staff and the Court’s media officers (including transcription service providers);
  - c. Counsel Assisting and the Solicitor Assisting the Deputy State Coroner; and
  - d. the Commissioner of Police (“the Commissioner”), New South Wales Police Force officers, and legal representatives of the Commissioner.

### Access to documents

3. Pursuant to the Coroner’s implied powers, and subject to orders 5 – 7, the documents containing the Sensitive Information are not to be supplied to any person.
4. Pursuant to s. 65(4) of the *Coroners Act 2009*, and subject to orders 5 - 7, the documents containing the Sensitive Information are not to be supplied, and access to those documents are not to be provided, to any person.
5. Orders 3 and 4 do not prevent the supply and access to the documents containing the Sensitive Information by the following persons:
  - a. the Deputy State Coroner;
  - b. necessary court staff;
  - c. Counsel Assisting and the Solicitor Assisting the Deputy State Coroner;

- d. the Commissioner, New South Wales Police Force officers, and legal representatives of the Commissioner;
6. Pursuant to the Coroner's implied powers (and notwithstanding orders 3 and 4):
    - a. Virginia Simpson is permitted to inspect and/or listen to the Subset of the Sensitive Information only upon request made by, or by those acting on behalf of, Ms Simpson to those assisting the Deputy State Coroner.
    - b. Kevin Blanch is permitted to inspect and/or listen to the Subset of the Sensitive Information only upon request made by, or by those acting on behalf of, Mr Blanch to those assisting the Deputy State Coroner.
    - c. Daniel Geoghegan is permitted to inspect and/or listen to the Subset of the Sensitive Information only upon request made by, or by those acting on behalf of, Mr Geoghegan to those assisting the Deputy State Coroner.
    - d. Donna Geoghegan and Lisa Morris are permitted to inspect and/or listen to the Subset of the Sensitive Information only upon request made by, or by those acting on behalf of, Ms Geoghegan and Ms Morris to those assisting the Deputy State Coroner.
  7. The inspection by each of Ms Simpson, Mr Blanch, Mr Geoghegan, Ms Geoghegan and Ms Morris of the Subset of the Sensitive Information as referred to in the above order will occur:
    - a. on a date and at a location to be determined in consultation with investigating police of the NSW Police Force; and
    - b. With respect to Ms Simpson, Mr Blanch and Mr Geoghegan, on separate dates and times from each other.

#### Closure of the Court

8. Pursuant to s. 74(1)(a) of the *Coroners Act 2009*, the Court is to be closed at any time the Sensitive Information concerning [REDACTED] may be disclosed, including the hearing of any evidence, submissions and delivery of findings.
9. The following persons may be present in Court during any closure of the Court pursuant to Order 8:
  - a. the Deputy State Coroner;
  - b. necessary court staff;
  - c. Counsel Assisting and the Solicitor Assisting the Deputy State Coroner; and

- d. the Commissioner, New South Wales Police Force officers, and legal representatives of the Commissioner.

#### **Non-publication**

10. Pursuant to s. 74(1)(b) of the *Coroners Act 2009* the Sensitive Information is not to be published in any medium.

#### **Miscellaneous orders**

11. Pursuant to the Coroner's implied powers, there is to be no disclosure of, or the contents of, the Confidential Affidavit of Assistant Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald affirmed 2 July 2020 ("the Confidential Affidavit") beyond the Deputy State Coroner and those assisting the Deputy State Coroner, for the purposes of determining the Commissioner's application on these orders.
12. Pursuant to s. 74(1)(b) of the *Coroners Act 2009* there be no publication of the Confidential Affidavit.
13. Pursuant to the Coroner's implied powers, the Confidential Affidavit is to be returned to the Commissioner's legal representatives on this application, at the conclusion of the hearing of this application, with the Commissioner to make the Confidential Affidavit available as required by the Court.

#### **Public interest immunity claims**

14. In the alternative to orders 1 to 10 above, pursuant to principles of public interest immunity, the Sensitive Information:
  - a. is to be excluded from the Coronial brief of evidence;
  - b. is not to be disclosed or disseminated to any person; and
  - c. is not otherwise to be published in any medium.
15. In the alternative to orders 11 to 13 above, pursuant to principles of public interest immunity, the Confidential Affidavit:
  - a. is not to be further disclosed (beyond the Deputy State Coroner and those assisting the Deputy State Coroner); and
  - b. is to be returned to the Commissioner's legal representatives on this application at the conclusion of the hearing of this application.

#### **Further non-publication**

16. Pursuant to s. 74(1)(b) of the *Coroners Act 2009* the residential address and telephone number provided by the caller in the triple zero call located behind Tab

64A of the brief of evidence are not to be published in any medium.

**SEAL AND SIGNATURE**

Name: Magistrate Lee

Capacity: Deputy State Coroner

Date: 6 November 2020