

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CORONER

State Coroner's COVID-19 Memorandum No 4

Amended and extended to Thursday 30 September 2021.

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 28 June 2021 to 30 September 2021.

The aim of these directions is to ensure compliance with COVID-19 physical distancing protocols in order 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 hearings listed between 28 June 2021 and 30 September 2021 will be adjourned to a future hearing date, unless they can proceed using audio visual links (AVL).
- 3. All parties, legal representatives and family members are to appear via AVL or audio link.
- 4. If the counsel assisting team can attend court safely then they are permitted to do so.
- 5. Arrangements will be made for Media to receive an audio link if requested.
- 6. The <u>Chief Magistrate's Order</u> in accordance with section 7(1) (b) of the Court Security Act 2005 applies.

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

Magistrate Teresa O'Sullivan

NSW State Coroner

20 August 2021