

## **BONDI JUNCTION INQUEST DIRECTIONS HEARING**

### **MEDIA FAQs**

#### **What happens at a directions hearing?**

A directions hearing is a hearing held in court in order to plan an inquest.

The Coroner and their assisting legal team come together with the parties who will be appearing at the inquest to address this plan.

Matters mentioned may include:

- The status of the coronial investigation and further evidence to be gathered;
- The schedule for provision of information to the Coroner;
- Establishing the hearing dates and duration; and
- Any other considerations the Court needs to examine.

These matters are brief and are often wrapped up in less than an hour.

#### **Is filming or photography permitted within the FMCCC complex?**

Media are not allowed to film or photograph inside the Forensic Medicine and Coroners Court Complex ("FMCCC"). It is an offence to film or record in court on any device without permission. Anyone infringing this rule will be asked to leave the premises and may be fined.

#### **Where can I view the hearing?**

The State Coroner may direct that media only view the court proceedings from a room separate to the courtroom/s.

The FMCCC complex has large multipurpose rooms on level 1 which allow the live screening of inquests in a space reserved for media. Before accessing these rooms, you may be asked to provide proof of employment with a media organisation.

#### **Release of information**

The Coroner's approval is required to release any information. Documents approved for release will be available online from the Bondi Junction Inquest website 'Documents' page:

<https://coroners.nsw.gov.au/upcoming-inquests/bondi-junction-inquest/documents.html>

#### **Non-publication orders**

The Coroner has the power to prohibit publication of evidence. Once such orders are made and recorded, they will be uploaded to the Bondi Junction Inquest website 'Documents' page and provided to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) Media Unit.

#### **Can I use the livestream in my news broadcast?**

The directions hearing will **not** be live streamed.

The Court will only live stream select portions of the hearing (including Counsel Assisting's opening address) and the State Coroner's findings, via its website at the following link:

<https://coroners.nsw.gov.au/coroners-court/upcoming-inquests/live-streams.html>.

It is a condition of accessing the live stream that a user must not record, publish or share the content in any form, unless with express permission of the Court. Content includes video and audio recordings, and still images. Media representatives may apply to the Court for permission to publish live streamed material for the purpose of reporting on the proceedings.

Please note that the live stream may be muted or suspended at any time.

**Can I report everything that happens in court?**

Not in every instance. There may be non-publication or other orders in place that prohibit certain information from being published. If in doubt, please consult with the DCJ Media Unit or the Bondi Junction Inquest Team at the Coroners Court of NSW registry (via email on:

[Bondijunctioninquest@dcj.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Bondijunctioninquest@dcj.nsw.gov.au)).

**How do I receive media updates about the inquest?**

A daily update will be circulated to media whilst the inquest is running. To be added to that list or for other media enquiries, please contact the Bondi Junction Inquest Team at the Coroners Court of NSW registry via email on: [Bondijunctioninquest@dcj.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Bondijunctioninquest@dcj.nsw.gov.au).