

BONDI JUNCTION INQUEST

MEDIA FAQs

What happens at an Inquest?

An inquest is a court hearing to investigate the circumstances of a death, (or of multiple deaths), presided over by a Coroner.

The Coroner's role is to establish, in relation to each person:

- Who died;
- When and where they died;
- The cause of death; and
- The manner of death (which means the circumstances surrounding the death).

At an inquest, the Coroner and their assisting legal team come together with all legal parties appearing at the inquest to discuss the issues, to hear evidence from witnesses and to consider any possible recommendations the Coroner may be able to make to improve public safety.

When and where is the Inquest sitting?

The Inquest is sitting across two dedicated courts on Level 2 of the Forensic Medicine and Coroners Court Complex (FMCCC) at 1A Main Avenue, Lidcombe, NSW 2141.

The Inquest will sit from Monday 28 April 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025. It is expected that the Inquest will sit for four days a week for the first four weeks, and five days in the final week. Daily sitting times are from 10AM to 4PM.

Will I be notified of the issues and the upcoming witnesses?

The issues list is available from the Bondi Junction Inquest website – please see:

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

The Bondi Junction Inquest Team (BJIT) will be providing a weekly list of upcoming witnesses via our Media email list. If you have not yet signed up to this list, please contact BondiJunctionInquest@dcj.nsw.gov.au and ask to be added.

Who will be attending?

Legal representatives, experts and witnesses, families of deceased and victim/survivors with their support persons and translators, media and members of the public.

Will the court be busy during these five weeks?

The Bondi Junction Inquest is not the only Inquest being held at the FMCCC during those five weeks. There are multiple other matters running concurrently and the court will be running at capacity throughout. While court staff will do their utmost to answer any queries and quickly resolve any issues that may arise, your patience during this busy period would be appreciated.

Attending media and photographers should also take note that the FMCCC is also a working Forensic facility. This means that at various times through any given day, we can have family attend the facility to view their loved ones in the mortuary. These attendees also deserve to be given some space to enter and leave.

NSW Sheriffs will be present on all levels of the FMCCC, and we ask that everyone attending comply promptly with any instructions given by Sheriffs.

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 a large multipurpose room on level 1 which allows the live screening of inquests in its entirety in a space reserved for media. This room will be staffed by members of the BJI Team and DCJ Media Unit, who will be on hand to answer any enquiries. Before accessing these rooms, you may be asked to provide proof of employment with a media organisation.

Can I use the livestream in my news broadcast?

This advice will be provided prior to the starting date of 28 April 2025.

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>

The remainder of the inquest will **not** be live streamed.

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.

The BJIT will advise media networks prior to the opening address regarding their using segments of the live stream in their broadcasts.

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

Release of information

The State 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 State 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 (linked above) and provided to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) Media Unit.

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).

How do I receive media updates about the inquest?

A weekly 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.