



CORONERS COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Inquest:	Inquest into the death of Prabha Arunkumar
Hearing dates:	21 July 2025
Date of Findings:	22 July 2025
Place of Findings:	Coroners Court of New South Wales, Lidcombe
Findings of:	Magistrate David O'Neil, Deputy State Coroner of NSW
Catchwords:	CORONIAL LAW -- fatal stabbing of woman in 2015—perpetrator not identified—referral to unsolved homicide
File number:	2015/71058
Representation	<p>Counsel Assisting, Ms Jillian Caldwell and Ms Sarah Love, instructed by Rebecca Campbell and Alana Galasso of the NSW Crown Solicitor's Office</p> <p>Family members in attendance (not represented)</p>
Non-publication orders	Non-publication orders made pursuant to s 74 of the <i>Coroners Act 2009</i> and/or the incidental powers of the Court apply in this matter and are available on the Court file. Copies are also annexed to these findings.

Findings:**Identity**

The deceased person was Prabha Arunkumar.

Date of death

Prabha died at 12:45am on 8 March 2015.

Place of death

Prabha died at Westmead Hospital.

Cause of death

The cause of death was multiple stab wounds to the neck.

Manner of death

Prabha's death was a result of homicide committed by a person or persons unknown.

Recommendations

I make the following recommendation pursuant to s 82 of the *Coroners Act 2009* (NSW):

I recommend to the Commissioner of Police, NSW Police Force, that the matter be referred to the Unsolved Homicide Team, Homicide Squad, for review and further investigation in accordance with the procedures and protocols of the Unsolved Homicide Team.

Introduction

- 1 Prabha died on 8 March 2015 at approximately 12.45am at Westmead Hospital. She was 41 years old at the time of her death. Prabha was an Indian national who had been living in Australia since 2012, working as a computer programmer. At approximately 9.30pm on Saturday, 7 March 2015, Prabha was walking along Jubilee Lane, a walkway in Parramatta Park, between the intersection of Pitt Street and Argyle Street, Parramatta and Amos Street, Westmead. She was walking to her home on Amos Street, having caught the train from Rhodes where she worked. She was speaking to her husband, Arun, in India, on her mobile phone.
- 2 Whilst walking along Jubilee Lane talking to her husband, Prabha was approached by an unknown assailant. She was stabbed multiple times in the neck. The attacker then disappeared into the night. Despite a lengthy police investigation, the assailant has not yet been identified. The attacker's motives are unknown.

Inquest

- 3 An inquest was held on 21 July 2025.
- 4 An inquest is a public examination of the circumstances of death. It provides an opportunity to closely consider what led to the death. It is not the primary purpose of an inquest to blame or punish anyone for the death. The process of holding an inquest does not imply that anyone is guilty of wrongdoing. Despite this there may nevertheless be factual findings which necessitate an adverse comment or criticism to be made.
- 5 Due to s 27(1)(a) of the *Coroners Act 2009* (NSW) (**the Act**), this is a mandatory inquest, because it appears Prabha died as a result of homicide.
- 6 The primary function of an inquest is to identify the circumstances in which the death occurred, and to make the formal findings required under s 81 of the Act, namely:

- (a) the person's identity;
- (b) the date and place of the person's death; and
- (c) the manner and cause of death.

7 Another purpose of an inquest is to consider whether it is necessary or desirable to make recommendations in relation to any matter connected with the death. This involves identifying any lessons that can be learned from the death, and whether anything should or could be done differently in the future, to prevent a death in similar circumstances.

Coronial Investigation

8 Prior to holding the inquest, an extremely extensive and detailed coronial investigation was undertaken.

9 An investigation was established by the NSW Police Force consisting of investigators from the North West Metropolitan Region and the Homicide Squad. The investigation was headed by Detective Inspector Sim. A team of detectives investigated Prabha's death full-time for approximately three years, with investigations extending interstate and overseas. Inquiries continue to be conducted.

10 At inquest a 9 volume brief of evidence was tendered together with electronic material as exhibit 1. The brief contained in excess of 3400 pages.

11 The Officer in Charge Statement of Detective Inspector Sim was 359 pages and 1346 paragraphs in length.

12 The written and electronic material was tendered during counsel assisting's comprehensive opening.

13 Some of the material in the brief, including parts of the statements of Detective Inspector Sim, were redacted. These redactions were made in relation to highly

sensitive material, irrelevant personal information and other material that was irrelevant to the statutory tasks.

- 14 No oral evidence was taken at Inquest.

Autopsy

- 15 An autopsy was conducted on 8 March 2015 by Dr Istvan Szentmariay at the Department of Forensic Medicine, Sydney.
- 16 The autopsy report concluded that the direct cause of Prabha's death was "multiple stab wounds to the neck".

Prabha's background

- 17 Prabha was born on 21 November 1973 in Panamangalore, India. She was raised by her parents, Mahabala and Sarojini Shetty. She was one of six children. Prabha's family were a traditional Indian family. They were Hindu and visited the temple regularly. In 1991, Prabha commenced a Bachelor of Engineering in Sullia, India.
- 18 Prabha completed her studies in 1997, and moved to Bangalore to work. Prabha commenced a relationship with Arun Govindaraju in 1998. Prabha's family were initially unaware of the relationship. Arun's family knew of the relationship, and supported it. Prabha's family did not approve of the relationship between Prabha and Arun due to Arun's poor financial position and prospects, and the fact that he was from a different caste. Prabha married Arun on 23 March 2000. Her family were unaware they were getting married. As a consequence, only Arun's family attended the wedding. Prabha and Arun subsequently settled in Bangalore.

- 19 In the same year, Prabha commenced working for an Indian software development company called Linc Software. Initially, Prabha's family did not accept the marriage, and Prabha was excluded from the family for a little time. In late 2000, Prabha travelled to her family home, and apologised to her parents for acting against her family's wishes. Most of her family members subsequently accepted the relationship. Prabha's brother, Shivaprasad, lived with Prabha and Arun for three years, commencing in 2001. Shiva's evidence is that Prabha and Arun had a very close relationship during that time. They did a lot of things together, and did not argue or raise their voices at one another, and both seemed happy and in love.
- 20 On 29 April 2004, Prabha and Arun's only child, Meghana, was born. Approximately three months after Meghana's birth, Prabha was travelling on a motor scooter with Shivaprasad when they had an accident. Prabha suffered major head injuries. She was in a coma for a few days and was hospitalised for almost four weeks. Following her release from hospital, she was unable to work for approximately three months. Arun was the primary carer for Prabha and Meghana during this period. Prabha commenced working for Mindtree Limited, an Indian software and information technology company in 2005, when that company acquired Linc Software.
- 21 In 2012, Prabha relocated to Sydney to work for Mindtree Australia. By this time, she was a senior developer for Mindtree, specialising in LANSa, a computer programming language. During her years in Sydney, Prabha lived in Rhodes, Liberty Grove, and Strathfield. At the time of her death, Prabha was living in Amos Street, Westmead, with a work friend, Sarada, Sarada's nephew,

his wife, and Sarada's cousin. While Prabha was in Australia working, Arun remained in India with Meghana, notwithstanding the fact that Prabha's Australian visa permitted them to live in Australia. There was evidence to suggest that Arun was reluctant to come to Australia, even for short visits.

- 22 In June 2013, for example, he cut short a holiday he and Meghana had in Sydney. The trip was planned to be at least four weeks, but Arun and Meghana returned to India after a fortnight. It is plain from the evidence in the brief that Prabha missed her family, particularly her daughter. Notwithstanding Arun's apparent reluctance to come to Australia, there is some evidence to suggest that Prabha was contemplating making an application for permanent residency in Australia for her, Arun, and Meghana. Prabha had made enquiries with an Australian immigration agent in July 2014 and had discussed the process of applying for permanent residency with a friend.
- 23 In the months and days before her death, Prabha had told a range of people that she was planning to go to India for a holiday in the coming months. She told her friend, Sejal, for example, that she was planning a holiday to India in about May 2015. Similarly, she told her colleague, Pradeep, that she was planning a vacation to India after April, so she could see her family. On the day before she was stabbed, Prabha told a work colleague that she was working on the weekend because she had to clear her tasks before returning to her family in India in mid-April. Prabha's job was a significant focus of her life. Colleagues described Prabha as a keen worker, who often worked additional unpaid hours.
- 24 Prabha was also described as warm, friendly, accommodating, easy to interact with, and a good listener. She never complained or spoke badly about anyone, either at work or socially. She was a religious person, regularly attending a Hindu temple in Strathfield for both worship and to undertake volunteer work.
- 25 Associates from the temple said that Prabha would wear her marital necklace to the temple and was proud to be married. Prabha was a discrete person, who did not discuss her personal life in detail, other than when she was speaking about her daughter of whom she was plainly very proud.

- 26 The statements obtained from friends, colleagues and associates reveal that when Prabha referred to Arun, her comments were positive. She appeared grateful for his support while she was working in Australia. She did not discuss any personal problems she was having in her life, including with respect to Arun.

The Events of 7 March 2015

- 27 On 7 March 2015, Prabha left Mindtree offices at 8:25pm and boarded a train for Strathfield railway station. There she boarded another train bound for Parramatta railway station at 8:50pm. Phone records show that Prabha exchanged a range of WhatsApp messages with her friend, Sejal, whilst on that train. Prabha alighted from the train at Parramatta railway station at 9:07pm. Call records show that Prabha made a call to Arun on Skype at this time, which went unanswered. A minute later at 9:08pm, Prabha made a further call to Arun, which was 20 seconds in duration.
- 28 Arun told police that he asked Prabha to ring him back on his mother's phone as his phone had limited battery life. Prabha called Arun's mother's phone on Skype at 9:09pm. The call lasted 24 minutes, concluding at 9:33pm.
- 29 After leaving the station, Prabha walked down Argyle Street, Parramatta, continuing to walk. She was seen on CCTV footage appearing to be relaxed. There is no suggestion that she was being followed by anyone at any stage from the time she left Rhodes. Prabha entered Jubilee Lane at the southern end of the Greater Parramatta Park. Whilst walking and talking to Arun, Prabha exchanged short text messages with one friend, and one work colleague. The work colleague called Prabha at 9:28pm. Prabha was still talking to Arun, and that call went unanswered.
- 30 Shortly after, Prabha was approached by an unknown assailant. In a statement to police on 9 March 2015, Arun said Prabha told him "There is a guy completely covered in black, he suddenly passed me." Then she said, "Please, please, please, don't do anything to me, I will give, I will give. You take it, I will give, I will give." Arun said Prabha then started screaming loudly and said, "Chinnu,

he stabbed me. Nobody around." Arun says he told Prabha to stay with him, but he did not hear anything after, aside from Prabha moaning. Prabha was found by a member of the public who was walking along Jubilee Lane. He contacted his daughter, who rang triple zero and rushed to the scene.

- 31 At around the same time, a young man residing in units near Parramatta Park heard a female scream twice. This caused him to travel to Parramatta Park. He located Prabha, and the other two members of the public. The young man then assisted with the triple zero call, telling the operator the address and describing Prabha's injuries. The young man then began to conduct CPR under instruction from the triple zero operator. In the following period, Prabha's phone kept ringing. Call records show that it was rung a number of times by friends and colleagues, who called in the minutes and hours after Prabha's stabbing. They had received news from Arun, after he had made some initial calls indicating that Prabha had been stabbed.
- 32 Ambulance and police arrived and took all necessary steps. Paramedics attempted to locate a pulse but could not detect one. Police assisted with CPR as Prabha had no cardiac function. Meanwhile ambulance officers attended to other testing including ventilating, chest decompression, incubation, and the administration of IV fluids.
- 33 Prabha was taken by ambulance to Westmead Hospital. During that trip, her heart rhythm returned to spontaneous circulation, such that Prabha's heart was beating on its own, and she had a pulse. Prabha was taken into an operating theatre shortly before 11pm. She was operated on by a number of doctors, including a trauma surgeon, a vascular surgeon, and a cardiothoracic surgeon. Unfortunately, she started to deteriorate at approximately 12:15pm. Shortly after, her heart rhythm rapidly deteriorated, and her blood pressure dropped. Prabha passed away at 12:45am on 8 March. As previously set out at autopsy, it was concluded that the direct cause of Prabha's death was multiple stab wounds to the neck.

- 34 The forensic analysis of a sexual assault kit that had been administered provided no indication of sexual assault.

The Police Investigation

- 35 Police have conducted an extremely extensive investigation, which I shall now detail in part. As indicated, a team of detectives worked full time for three years on Prabha's homicide, with the investigation extending interstate and overseas. Inquiries continue to be conducted.
- 36 A crime scene was established at Parramatta Park between 9:52pm on 7 March and 8:45pm on 8 March. Upon receiving information that Prabha was stabbed by a man wearing all black, that information was disseminated via police radio as a "keep a look out for".
- 37 The Dog Squad commenced a search of the area. A line search of the area surrounding the crime scene was conducted on 8 March, by police from the Rescue Squad, the Public Order and Riot Squad and the State Emergency Service. The search included the ground, garbage bins, drains, creeks and, where relevant, the roofs of buildings and structures. The knife or other weapon used in the attack has never been found.
- 38 The contents of Prabha's backpack assisted police to identify Prabha's bank accounts and financial records, her movements leading up to her death, some of Prabha's associates and aspects of her lifestyle and activities. The backpack was subject to various forensic examinations.
- 39 The analysis of a tape lift from the front zipper area of the backpack, identified an unknown male DNA profile. It was a mixed profile, the major contributor being Prabha, and the minor contributor identified as "profile D". This profile is unknown to the National Criminal Investigation DNA Database. DNA samples were taken from the witnesses who attended the scene, including the responding police and ambulance officers, and the DNA profiles were compared to that of profile D. Those males have been excluded as being contributors to profile D.

- 40 Extensive canvassing of witnesses and CCTV footage was carried out by police, with a view to identifying Prabha's movements and any suspicious activities. Investigators obtained and scrutinised CCTV footage from the night of 7 March 2015 from a range of sources. These included footage from CCTV cameras on the bike path on which Prabha walked in Rhodes, from Rhodes, Strathfield and Parramatta railway stations, from buses travelling along relevant streets in Parramatta, Westmead and Rhodes, from RMS safety cameras, from residential properties and from businesses.
- 41 The most notable CCTV footage obtained from 7 March, was footage from residential units in Parkside Lane, Westmead. In that footage, a person can be seen walking from the golf course area in the direction of Jubilee Lane at 8:42pm. The person is wearing dark clothes. Unfortunately, the footage is of poor quality, making identification of the person difficult. Extensive efforts were made by police to enhance this footage. Although the footage was able to be brightened, it was unable to be enhanced to the point of being able to identify either the person depicted or the clothes the person was wearing.
- 42 A portion of the footage was released to the public on 31 July 2015. Police sought the public's assistance in identifying the person and asked for the person to come forward. In response to the release of the footage, two Crime Stoppers' reports were made to police. Police investigated those reports and determined that they did not progress the investigation. The person in the footage remains unidentified.
- 43 The only other relevant sighting was on the night itself. At 11pm on 7 March 2015, the following message was broadcast over police radio: "Job in Argyle Street crossing Pitt Street, Parramatta, male in all black clothing walking on the train track towards Westmead, has come via the station". That reference is a reference to the job had come from the police station. The member of the public who made the report said that she saw a male dressed in black, hiding behind a large tree between her back patio and the rail tracks. As soon as she turned on the patio lights, the man scampered up the embankment onto the rail tracks

and ran towards Westmead railway station. That location was within close walking distance of the crime scene. That male has not been identified.

- 44 Between 9:07am and 10:47am on 8 March, police executed a search warrant at the house on Amos Street where Prabha had been living. Nineteen items were seized. These items included financial records, phone records, SIM cards, IMEI numbers and medication.
- 45 On 11 March 2015, a second search of Prabha's residence was conducted, following information received from Arun who had arrived in Australia. The search commenced at 12:31pm and concluded at 1:34pm with 8 exhibits seized, consisting of multiple items of jewellery. The items seized from Prabha's residence provided police with further lines of inquiry, but none of the items progressed the investigation to any notable point.
- 46 Statements were also obtained from each of Prabha's housemates, who were at home that evening with a number of guests. The statements obtained from Prabha's housemates and their guests were consistent. Their accounts of their movements that evening were corroborated by other sources. Police obtained hundreds of statements during the course of the investigation, including from members of the public who found Prabha, the NSW Ambulance officers who treated Prabha at the scene, the NSW Police Force officers who attended or maintained the crime scene or who were involved in subsequent investigations, the medical staff who treated Prabha at Westmead Hospital, witnesses who were in the vicinity of Jubilee Lane at the time of the attack, Prabha's family members, Prabha's friends and associates, her work colleagues, her housemates and former housemates, various witnesses in India, and numerous persons of interest.
- 47 Of the people spoken to during the investigation, no-one was aware of Prabha having been involved in any conflict with anyone. Further, police identified no evidence to suggest that Prabha was involved in any criminal activity in any way.

- 48 Police obtained phone records, WhatsApp messages, emails and social media records of Prabha and people that were identified as persons of interest, or who may have had relevant information in relation to Prabha's life. Police also obtained Prabha's employment records. They examined her working relationships, employment contracts, the circumstances in which her employment in Australia came to be extended on multiple occasions, and her work emails, phone records and messages. There was nothing suspicious or of interest identified.
- 49 Investigating officers obtained financial records of Prabha's bank accounts, as well as accounts both she and Arun had with an Indian bank. The contents of the accounts tended to corroborate Prabha's habits, social activities, employment and information supplied by friends and acquaintances.
- 50 In June 2016, the Karnataka Criminal Investigation Division (**Karnataka CID**) in India, which forms part of Karnataka State Police, commenced assisting the NSW Police Force with its investigation into Prabha's homicide. The assistance was provided under the authority of a mutual legal assistance request made by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. A range of phone and financial records, as well as witness statements, were obtained by the Karnataka CID and provided to the NSW Police Force.
- 51 Between 14 and 29 January 2017, three detectives from the NSW Police Force travelled to, and conducted inquiries in, Bangalore, India, with the assistance of the Karnataka CID. A range of witnesses and persons of interest were interviewed, and further phone and financial records were obtained. Supplementary records and witness statements have since been provided to the NSW Police Force by the Karnataka CID.
- 52 During the investigation, police identified a number of persons of interest. As the investigation is ongoing, I must be circumspect in my comments in regard to persons of interest. Section 81(3) of the Act directs that I must not indicate, or in any way suggest, that an offence has been committed by any person in these findings. Various persons of interest were identified by investigating

police. Those persons of interest were investigated and, where possible, excluded as being responsible for, or involved in, the homicide.

- 53 Extensive inquiries were undertaken in relation to everyone identified as a person of interest. Mobile phone records were checked extensively. Bank accounts were checked. Police intelligence and holdings and other records were checked. Interstate records, social media accounts and email accounts were reviewed. Statements were taken from the persons of interest and interviews were conducted. DNA for comparison purposes was obtained, as were photographs for comparison to CCTV footage. These were obtained, where possible, with consent.
- 54 Prabha's husband, Arun, has been a person of interest in the investigation. Arun provided two statements to the NSW Police in March 2015. He was interviewed in November 2015 in Sydney. He provided a further statement to Indian police in February 2016 and participated in another electronic record of interview with the NSW Police Force, while they were conducting investigations in India in January 2017.

Possible Explanations for the Attack

- 55 A number of explanations have been considered by investigating police. The *first* possible explanation is that the attack was random.
- 56 In the week prior to her death, Prabha had told a colleague that the area in which she was staying "was not safe", and that there "had been [a] few incidents in the past in the area. so it wasn't safe to go alone in the night". She enquired with that same colleague whether there was any reasonable accommodation in Strathfield.
- 57 Police conducted a range of enquiries including enquiries with the Electronic Monitoring Unit of the Department of Corrective Services to establish if any monitored, high risk offenders, or offenders on parole were in the vicinity of the crime scene between 7:30pm and 10:30pm on 7 March 2015. No monitored

offenders were recorded as being in the vicinity of Jubilee Lane at the time of the homicide.

- 58 Enquiries were also made with Redbank Adolescent Mental Health Unit at Westmead Hospital to ascertain if there were any patients absent without authority, or without the knowledge of staff. It was confirmed that there were no patients who absconded from the unit between 6 and 9 March 2015. Five patients were on leave on 7 March 2015. None of those persons were adversely known to police. There was no information or intelligence to indicate they were responsible for Prabha's death.
- 59 Police also monitored reports of crime in Parramatta, and surrounding areas to identify whether there were any similar incidents that could be linked to the attack on Prabha. Police did not identify any such incidents, or any other evidence which supported the conclusion that the attack was random. Nevertheless, this remains a possibility.
- 60 The *second* possible explanation considered is that the attack was an attempted robbery. However, the evidence does not support the conclusion that robbery was the motive for the attack, given that there is no evidence that any property was stolen from Prabha. Her phone and backpack, which included her wallet, passport, credit cards, laptop, keys, and an iPod were left at the scene. Prabha's backpack was closed, and did not appear to have been tampered with, or ransacked.
- 61 The *third* possible explanation considered by police is that the attack was racially motivated. A few months prior to her death, Prabha told a colleague, that she was "attacked" by a woman in the park on her way home, who approached her while she was on the phone.
- 62 Prabha told this colleague that the woman was "going off about her long black hair", and that she "felt she was being discriminately attacked due to her Indian appearance". Detective Inspector Sim notes in this regard, that it would be reasonable to expect that if the attack was racially motivated, Arun would have

heard racial slurs being made by the assailant at the time Prabha was stabbed. Arun did not report hearing any such racial comments being made.

- 63 Police also monitored reports of crime in Parramatta and surrounding areas to identify whether there were any similar incidents, including racially motivated attacks that could be linked to the attack on Prabha. No such incidents were identified.
- 64 The *fourth* possible explanation considered by police is that the attack was sexually motivated. There was no information, intelligence, or evidence gathered to support the theory. The results of Prabha's postmortem examination did not identify any evidence of sexual assault.
- 65 The *fifth* possible explanation, considered by police as a matter of completeness, was that Prabha committed suicide. This was ruled out by police.
- 66 The *sixth* possible explanation is that the attack was a targeted killing. Investigating police considered this to be the most likely explanation.

Conclusions

- 67 Investigations into Prabha's death continue to date. On 28 October 2024, the NSW Police Force announced a \$1 million reward for information leading to the conviction of the person or persons behind Prabha's homicide.
- 68 In announcing the reward at the Prabha Memorial Walk in Parramatta Park, the then Commander of the NSW Police Force Homicide Squad, Detective Superintendent Danny Doherty noted that the \$1 million reward was not limited to people in Australia, and that the appeal is an international request for information. He urged anyone with information to contact NSW Crimestoppers.
- 69 Jubilee Lane was renamed Prabha Memorial Walk in late 2015. This community achievement shows the extent and depth of the affection for Prabha.

- 70 The evidence makes abundantly clear that Prabha was an honest, and hardworking person with a gentle heart, and a great love for her daughter.
- 71 Prabha also possessed great inner strength. She emerged from the head injuries she suffered in the motor scooter accident in 2004 shortly after her daughter's birth, having been hospitalised for a month and unable to work for three months, to become a successful and valued employee. She also showed great strength in managing the fact that she lived in Australia whilst her family lived in India.
- 72 In family statements, generously shared at the Inquest, her brother, sisters, and niece revealed what a loving, caring, kind sister, mother, and aunty she was. As well as being considered a mentor, guide, and example for family members, importantly she also provided great fun for the family, and family members when they were all together. Her family miss her deeply.
- 73 Prabha's parents also provided a statement in their native tongue. Their heartfelt wish is that the perpetrator or perpetrators are brought to justice one day. I trust that they, and all the family feel reassured by learning of the extent of the police investigation to date. I will refer the matter to the Unsolved Homicide Squad. The investigation will continue.
- 74 I commend all police and service providers, including the doctors who conducted the surgery, for their efforts in March 2015 in the immediate aftermath of the attack on Prabha. In particular, I acknowledge the efforts of Detective Inspector Sim, and Detective Sergeant Lovell in the ongoing investigation, which they have headed.
- 75 They've also worked with the assisting team to make sure all relevant information was conveyed. My thanks also to the assisting team. Before mentioning them individually, I should acknowledge that other coroners, and other lawyers have been involved in the investigative, and enquiry stages following Prabha's death. During my period with carriage of the Inquest, Ms Caldwell and Ms Love have worked together tirelessly to master the extremely

large quantity of written and electronic material and bring it together to produce the thorough and considered opening presented by Ms Caldwell yesterday. Ms Galasso and Ms Campbell of the Crown Solicitor's office have worked with an admirable dedication to detail, and a second to none ability to prepare that has enabled the inquest to finally take place.

- 76 On behalf of the Coroners Court of New South Wales, I offer my sincere and respectful condolences to Prabha's family members and loved ones. In particular, I acknowledge her sister, Shubha and niece Ananya who travelled to Sydney, from India, to attend the inquest as well as her family members who watched the proceedings via AVL, including her daughter.

Formal findings

- 77 I turn now to the formal findings under s 81 of the Act. The findings I make are:

Identity

The deceased person was Prabha Arunkumar.

Date of death

Prabha died at 12:45am on 8 March 2015.

Place of death

Prabha died at Westmead Hospital.

Cause of death

The cause of death was multiple stab wounds to the neck.

Manner of death

Prabha's death was a result of homicide committed by a person or persons unknown.

Recommendation

78 I make the following recommendation pursuant to s 82 of the Act:

I recommend to the Commissioner of Police, NSW Police Force, that the matter be referred to the Unsolved Homicide Team, Homicide Squad, for review and further investigation in accordance with the procedures and protocols of the Unsolved Homicide Team.

I close this inquest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David O'Neil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D' and 'O'.

Magistrate David O'Neil

Deputy State Coroner

22 July 2025