



**CORONERS COURT
OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

Inquest:	Inquest into death of Melissa Jane Du Pont
Hearing dates:	31 July 2026
Date of judgment:	15 September 2026
Place of judgment:	Coroners Court of NSW, Lidcombe
Judgment of:	Deputy State Coroner, Judge David O'Neil
Catchwords:	CORONIAL LAW – unascertained manner and cause of death
File number:	2025/00420826
Representation:	Coronial Advocate Sergeant Perry
Findings	I make the following findings pursuant to s 81 of the Coroners Act 2009 (NSW): Identity: Melissa Jane Du Pont Time of death: Between 6 June 2025 and 30 October 2025 Place of death: Sans Souci, NSW Cause of death: Unascertained Manner of death: Unascertained

disorder and schizophrenia. She also had a history of intravenous drug use and hepatitis C infection.

- 7 Neighbours describe frequent gatherings at her unit involving individuals who appeared to be using illicit drugs. Police records note prior interactions involving drug related matters.

Circumstances leading to death

- 8 The last confirmed sighting of Ms Du Pont was by her housing manager in or about May 2025. At that time no issues were identified. Following a period the housing manager became concerned when rent payments ceased and repeated attempts to contact Ms Du Pont proved unsuccessful. On 30 October 2025 the housing manager attended the unit with a colleague and a locksmith. After entry was gained through a window, they entered the premises and detected a strong odour. In a bedroom they located what appeared to be the body of Ms Du Pont lying on a bed in an advanced state of decomposition. Emergency Services were contacted with police and paramedics attending shortly thereafter confirming the death.
- 9 In leading the investigation Constable Malloy firstly engaged detectives and crime scene officers to attend the scene. Detectives conducted a walk-through of the premises and formed the view that the death was not suspicious. They noted no signs of forced entry, no evidence of disturbance consistent with third party involvement and no apparent injuries. Two cartons of milk were in the refrigerator. The first had an expiry date of 8 July 2025. The other a packaged date of 6 June 2025.
- 10 Police canvassed neighbouring residents. Whilst accounts varied to some extent, neighbours generally reported that they had not heard for Ms Du Pont for a period ranging from several weeks to several months before her body was located. No neighbour identified any partner, housemate or other person regularly residing with Ms Du Pont.
- 11 The best available information is the packaged date of the milk carton being 6 June 2025 as to an indication of the last date Ms Du Pont was alive. Throughout the investigation no evidence of assault, robbery, forced entry or any other suspicious circumstance was identified.
- 12 Due to the state of decomposition visual or fingerprint identification methods were not viable. Police records describing Ms Du Pont's appearance matched

died at San Souci New South Wales. The cause and manner of Ms Du Pont's death are unable to be ascertained. There is no reason to make any recommendation in relation to Ms Du Pont's death.

Findings pursuant to s81 Coroners Act 2009 (NSW)

Identity: The person who died was Melissa Jane Du Pont

Time of death: Between 6 June 2025 and 30 October 2025

Place of death: Sans Souci, NSW

Cause of death: Unascertained

Manner of death: Unascertained

Conclusion

- 19 On behalf of the Coroner's Court of New South Wales, I offer my condolences to the family and friends of Ms Du Pont.
- 20 I thank the officer-in-charge of the coronial investigation, Constable Malloy, for his work in compiling the brief of evidence.
- 21 I express my gratitude to Sergeant Perry for assisting in the preparation and conduct of the inquest.
- 22 I close this inquest.



Judge David O'Neil
Deputy State Coroner
Coroners Court NSW
15 September 2026