



CORONERS COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Inquest: Inquest into the death of Michael Anthony Guider

Hearing dates: 1 June 2026

Date of findings: 1 June 2026

Place of findings: Coroners Court, Lidcombe

Findings of: Judge Hosking, Deputy State Coroner

Catchwords: Natural death in custody.

File number: 2024/336335

Representation: Coronial Advocate Assisting the Coroner: Sgt. Danny Winter-Mirenzi
Commissioner of Corrective Services NSW (**CSNSW**):
Jessica Holmes, Department of Communities and Justice

Findings: **Identity of deceased:** Michael Anthony Guider
Date of death: 7 September 2024
Place of death: Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick.
Manner of death: Natural causes
Cause of death: Thromboembolism on a background of a spindle cell tumour

Recommendations: N/A

Publication orders: Non-publication orders apply to the evidence in this inquest. A copy of the orders made by Judge Hosking are available upon request from the Court Registry.

Introduction

- 1 The role of the coroner is to make findings as to the identity of the nominated person and in relation to the place and date of their death. The coroner is also to address issues concerning the manner and cause of the person's death.¹ A coroner may make recommendations, arising from the evidence, in relation to matters that have the capacity to improve public health and safety in the future.²
- 2 This inquest is held pursuant to the jurisdiction conveyed by s 23 (1)(d)(ii) of the Act in circumstances where at the time of his death, Michael was 'temporarily absent' (as he had been hospitalised) from a correctional centre within the meaning of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* (NSW).

Michael's background

Childhood and early adulthood

- 3 Michael was born on 20 October 1950 in South Melbourne, Australia to Ruth Guider and Kevin Guider (both deceased). Michael and his parents moved to Newtown, New South Wales whilst he was a baby, and in October 1953 his only sibling was born.
- 4 The family moved around a lot due to Michael's father being in the army, with the family living in an army barracks in Riverwood, South Granville and Sydenham.
- 5 In the early 1960's Michael's parents separated. In 1963 both Michael and his brother were placed into Melrose Boys Home at Pendle Hill, NSW by their parents. The home was run by the United Protestant Association (**UPA**), who, without their parents' prior knowledge, successfully applied to the NSW Government to make Michael and his brother 'wards of the State.' It is alleged that whilst in the care of the UPA at Melrose, the boys were subjected to the

¹ S 81 of the *Coroners Act 2009* (NSW) (**the Act**)

² S 82 of the Act.

psychological trauma of extreme physical abuse, as well as being drugged and then sexually abused.

- 6 Michael left the Melrose Boys Home at age 15 and lived in a rented room in a hostel style residence in Sydney. As far as education is concerned, Michael completed Year 10.
- 7 After his schooling, Michael worked as the head gardener at the Royal Yacht Squadron Kirribilli, then as the head gardener at the Royal North Shore Hospital.
- 8 Michael never married, entered a defacto relationship or had any children. He lived most of his adult life in a private rented room in a hostel style residence in Kirribilli and was of the Church of England faith.

Criminal history

- 9 In 1979 Michael was charged with maliciously damage by fire with intent to injure.
- 10 In 1996 Michael was charged with numerous child sexual offences including six counts of aggravated indecent assault of a child under 10 years of age. He was found guilty and sentenced to a minimum term of 10 years imprisonment.
- 11 In 1999 Michael was charged with a further 17 child sexual offences. He was found guilty and sentenced to 6 years imprisonment.
- 12 In February 2001 Michael was charged with the murder of the child Samantha Knight. He was found guilty of her manslaughter. He was sentenced to 17 years imprisonment.
- 13 Michael was released from custody on 5 September 2019 and placed on an Extended/Interim Supervision Order. He returned to CSNSW custody on 29 September 2022 for two counts of failure to comply with these Orders. At the

time of his death, Michael was serving a 3-year imprisonment term and would have been eligible for parole on 29 December 2024.

Medical history

- 14 Michael cited a family history of health problems, including his father having cardiac issues and his mother suffering lung cancer.
- 15 Michael had a lengthy history of medical issues, including:
 - (1) presenting in 2000 to the Emergency Department at Lithgow District Hospital with central chest pain.
 - (2) angina and hypertension since 2011
 - (3) surgical intervention in 2000 for the excision of liposarcoma of his left thigh also in the year 2000
 - (4) being COVID-19 positive in 2023
 - (5) hepatitis A
 - (6) an allergy to penicillin & sulphur, and an adverse drug reaction to the tetanus toxoid vaccine (since childhood)
- 16 Michael has a documented history of depression and schizophrenia and is reported to have experienced chronic auditory hallucinations in January 2023.
- 17 At the time of his death, Michael's reported medications were identified as: aspirin, atenolol, lisinopril and metformin hydrochloride.

Event's leading up to death

- 18 Michael was an inmate of Long Bay Correctional Centre. He was housed in Area 3 of the Metropolitan Specials Program Correctional Centre (**MSPC3**) in

the Long Bay Correctional Complex, with his Classification & Placement being: C2 Minimum Security.

- 19 Prior to attending hospital and his subsequent death, Michael had experienced four days of a sudden onset of progressive exertional dyspnoea (shortness of breath). Further, he'd noted an increased swelling of his left lower limb, but he did not have chest pain.
- 20 Around 2:50pm on Friday 6 September 2024, Michael spoke with Correctional Officers about a previous medical issue concerning his leg and complaints of shortness of breath. In presenting to nursing staff he was found to be bradycardic (having a slower than normal heart rate) and hypotensive (having low blood pressure). He was given frusemide due to concern about his lower limb swelling.
- 21 Justice Health nurses assessed Michael and recommended his hospitalisation, and ultimately he was taken to Prince of Wales Hospital (**PoWH**) Emergency Department via ambulance, being admitted at 4:37pm on the 6 September 2024.
- 22 Michael was suffering from multi-organ dysfunction. A bedside echocardiogram demonstrated a large RV mass, likely thrombus - for which he was treated - and he was admitted to the intensive care unit for cardiogenic shock with multiorgan failure.
- 23 Michael was determined not to be a candidate for surgery due to his instability, comorbidities and lung masses. He was offered thrombolysis – being the only possible treatment option at that stage.
- 24 Michael had a cardiac arrest at 3:56am, and at 4:00am lost consciousness. CPR was immediately commenced and continued for 5 – 8 minutes until there was a return of spontaneous circulation. Despite being given adrenaline he continued to have ongoing episodes of bradycardia and given his poor

prognosis it was decided to switch to providing Michael with comfort care. Michael died at 7:23am on 7 September 2024.

- 25 No concerns were identified with respect to the care and treatment provided to Michael while he was in the custody of CSNSW.

Post-mortem examination

- 26 Dr Van Vuuren, forensic pathologist, performed a coronial post-mortem examination on Michael on 17 September 2024. She opined that his cause of death was thromboembolism on a background of a spindle cell tumour.

Police investigation

- 27 The police investigation revealed no evidence of suspicious circumstances.

Statutory findings required by s 81(1)

- 28 As a result of considering all the documentary and the oral evidence heard at the inquest, I make the following findings:

Identity

The person who has died is Michael Anthony Guider

Place of death

Michael died at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick

Date of death

Michael died on 7 September 2024

Cause of death

Thromboembolism on a background of a spindle cell tumour.

Manner of death

Natural causes

29 I offer my condolences to all those who miss Michael and I thank Sgt. Danny Winter-Mirezzi and Det. Snr. Cst. Blake Nicholls for their assistance in this inquest.

I close this inquest.



Judge R Hosking
Deputy State Coroner
Lidcombe
