



CORONERS COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Inquest: Inquest into the death of Toi Dix Hohaia

Hearing dates: 9 September 2026

Date of findings: 9 September 2026

Place of findings: Coroners Court, Lidcombe

Findings of: Judge Hosking, Deputy State Coroner

Catchwords: S 23(1)(a) *Coroners Act 2009* (NSW), natural death in custody

File number: 2025/00444753

Representation: Assisting the Coroner: Police Advocate Samer Charouk
Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network: Ms Amal
Commissioner of Corrective Services NSW: Ms Poullos

Findings: **Identity of deceased:** Toi Dix Hohaia

Date of death: 16 November 2025

Place of death: Grevillea Cottage, Garrawarra Centre, Waterfall, NSW 2233

Manner of death: Natural causes

Cause of death: Complications of vascular dementia, with contributing conditions including systemic vascular calcification and Diabetes Mellitus.

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, Toi was 'temporarily absent' (as he had been hospitalised) from a correctional centre within the meaning of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* (NSW).

Toi's background

- 3 Toi was born on 18 September 1950.
- 4 On 18 February 2015, Toi was arrested in Western Australia, extradited to NSW, charged and bail refused.
- 5 At the time of his arrest, Toi was suffering from dementia and on 21 August 2017, he was determined to be unfit to stand trial by the NSW District Court.
- 6 From 25 January 2019, pursuant to orders made in the District Court of NSW, Toi was to be detained in a mental health facility.
- 7 From 14 September 2020, Toi resided at the Garrawarra centre, a specialised dementia care facility providing high-level residential aged care.

Toi's medical history

- 8 Toi suffered from: advanced mixed dementia (Alzheimer's and Vascular Dementia); type 2 diabetes mellitus; hypertension; prostate cancer; transient

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

² S 82 of the Act.

ischaemic attacks; aortic stenosis; chronic pain; previous meningitis, and seizure disorder.

- 9 Toi continued to decline while at the Garrawarra Centre, consistent with the natural progression of advanced dementia. He demonstrated significant impairment in communication, memory, orientation and daily functioning. By early 2025 he required full assistance with feeding, mobility, hygiene and personal care.
- 10 In January 2025, treating clinicians considered that Toi was nearing the end of his life. Discussions occurred with family, and a comfort-focused palliative approach was adopted. Medications including morphine and midazolam were prescribed to ensure symptom relief in the event of deterioration.

Toi's death

- 11 On 10 November 2025, nursing staff observed that Toi had significantly reduced oral intake and was consuming minimal fluids. He was reviewed by a Dementia and Palliative Care Clinical Nurse Consultant, who formed the view that he was entering the terminal phase of his illness. His treating geriatrician agreed with this assessment.
- 12 On 11 November 2025, it was determined that Toi met the criteria for end-of-life care. He was placed on an end-of-life pathway and transferred to a palliative care room.
- 13 On 12 November 2025, a formal end-of-life care plan was implemented. A syringe driver was commenced for medication administration and ongoing symptom monitoring, and comfort measures were continued.
- 14 On 13 November 2025, Toi was further assessed as drowsy but comfortable. Medication was adjusted to maintain symptom control.
- 15 On 14 of November 2025, regular morphine and midazolam were commenced in response to his ongoing deterioration.

- 16 At 11:00pm on 15 November 2025, Toi was observed to be unconscious but breathing, responsive only to painful stimuli and displayed signs consistent with the final stages of life, including laboured breathing and peripheral shutdown. He was noted to be comfortable and not in distress.
- 17 At 11:18pm, a prescribed dose of morphine was administered in accordance with the medication chart.
- 18 At 12:15am on 16 November 2025, Toi was observed to have ceased breathing. Toi was pronounced deceased at 12:18am.
- 19 No care and treatment issues were identified in the coronial investigation.

Post-mortem examination

- 20 Dr l'Ons conducted an external post-mortem examination on 20 November 2025 and determined Toi's cause of death to be 'Complications of vascular dementia.' Other significant conditions contributing to the death were identified as systemic vascular calcification and diabetes mellitus.

Statutory findings required by s 81(1)

- 21 I make the following findings:

Identity of deceased: Toi Dix Hohaia

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Manner of death: Natural causes

Cause of death: Complications of vascular dementia, with contributing conditions including systemic vascular calcification and Diabetes Mellitus.

22 I offer my condolences to all those who miss Toi and I thank Sgt. Samer Charouk and Det. Sgt. Adam Smithers for their assistance in this inquest.

I close this inquest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Hosking', written in a cursive style.

Judge R Hosking
Deputy State Coroner
Lidcombe
