

The Forensic Medicine & Coroners Court Complex (FMCCC) at Lidcombe has replaced the Coroners Court and NSW Health Pathology's Forensic Medicine Service at Glebe.

The new complex began operating in late January 2019. It provides purpose-built facilities for the NSW Health Pathology's Forensic Medicine Service Sydney, NSW Department of Justice and the NSW Police Force to work collaboratively to investigate unexplained and unexpected deaths.

### Location

The FMCCC is located at 1A Main Avenue, Lidcombe – on the corner of Joseph Street and Main Ave. It is 16km from Sydney CBD in an area that is well serviced by major roads, public transport and cycle ways.



### Parking

The FMCCC has a visitor carpark, which can be accessed using the driveway at 1A Main Avenue, Lidcombe. Entry to the driveway is off Joseph Street. The media is encouraged to utilise the visitor carpark.

### Train travel

The closest train stations are at Regents Park and Berala, which are approximately 1.6 km from the complex.

### Bus travel

The 925, M92 and 908 services stop near the complex.

### Cafe

There's a café on the ground floor of the FMCCC.

### Building operating hours

The FMCCC operates Monday to Friday from 8.30am-4.30pm.

### Where are inquests held?

Inquests are conducted in four courtrooms located on level two of the FMCCC. Inquests are open to the public, unless the coroner orders the court to be closed.

### How can the media find out when inquests are being held?

Media can enquire about listings via the Department of Justice media unit ([angus.huntsdale@justice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:angus.huntsdale@justice.nsw.gov.au) and [georgie.loudon@justice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:georgie.loudon@justice.nsw.gov.au)) and can view the week's listings on the [Coroners Court website](#).

### **Is filming or photography allowed inside the FMCCC?**

Media are not allowed to film or photograph inside the FMCCC. It's an offence to film or record in court on any device without the permission of the judicial officer hearing the matter. Written applications to film inquest findings can be made to the Department of Justice media unit. The Coroner presiding over the inquest will consider the application and determine whether to permit filming. If an application is approved, it will generally be on a "pool camera" basis and the camera operator will only be allowed to film the coroner and no other person in the court.

### **How can the media obtain exhibits or inspect a court file?**

Applications to inspect exhibits or obtain copies of exhibits must be made to the Department of Justice media unit. The application form is available on the [Coroner's Court website](#). The Department of Justice media unit will advise if your application to inspect a court file has been approved.

### **Where can the media inspect court files and exhibits once an application has been approved?**

For matters in the Coroners Court on that day, media should access the exhibit or court file through the court officer or counsel assisting in the courtroom. If this is not able to be accommodated, media should attend the court registry on level one to enquire about access.

In these instances, access is usually given in the courtroom and can only be accommodated during court breaks at morning tea, lunch or at the end of the day.

For access to finalised matters, media can attend the court registry on level one once approval has been given. The date and time to attend should be pre-approved with the court's registrar.

### **What happens if the public gallery is full during an inquest?**

The new complex has three multipurpose rooms on level one. These rooms will screen inquests live when necessary - for example, when courtrooms are full it will be possible to beam inquest proceedings onto giant screens in the multipurpose rooms so the public or the media can observe them.

When this occurs, the Department of Justice media unit will advise the media that they should (or must if directed by Coroner) view the court proceedings in the multipurpose room, and what the relevant protocols will be. To access the multipurpose room, reporters will need to obtain a visitor pass at the ground floor reception and provide their media card or proof of their employment with a media organisation.

In cases where the coroner allows it, the media will also be able to obtain broadcast-quality recordings of proceedings such as inquest findings.

### **How can the media find out more about forensic medicine?**

The NSW Health Pathology media unit can be contacted at [NSWPATH-News@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:NSWPATH-News@health.nsw.gov.au) with a CC to [kerrie.armstrong@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kerrie.armstrong@health.nsw.gov.au).

### **For more information**

Visit [www.coroners.justice.nsw.gov.au](http://www.coroners.justice.nsw.gov.au) or [www.pathology.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.pathology.health.nsw.gov.au) to read the latest FMCCC community update, download the FMCCC official opening media release and watch a fly through of the new facility.