

MEDIA RELEASE

CORONIAL PROCESSES ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE OUR SAFETY

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The President of the New South Wales Bar Association, Arthur Moses SC, today said that coronial inquiries are an essential part of our justice system and their role to make recommendations to improve the safety of the public is essential.

A member of the NSW Police Association has today criticised the Lindt Coronial Inquiry process and the role of lawyers appearing in the Inquiry.

“It was inappropriate and unfair for the coronial process and the lawyers to have been attacked in this manner. The lawyers involved in this Inquiry had a difficult job to do and discharged their functions with integrity” said Mr Moses.

“Equally, no one can question the courage of the police officers involved in the Lindt Siege, but it was critical that the coronial inquiry examine the events surrounding the siege and understand precisely what took place.”

“The coroner’s role is to determine the manner and cause of death. The role of the coroner is also to look at whether processes can be improved or implemented that would minimise a tragedy occurring again” Mr Moses said.

“Rather than rush to judgment, at this point it is important that everybody await the coronial report so that it can be properly examined in the context of actual findings or recommendations. In the meantime, personal attacks on the coroner and lawyers are not appropriate and undermine public confidence in the important role played by the coroner.”

“Lawyers are involved in these kinds of inquiries to assist the coroner in getting to the truth. They have a role in representing all parties involved, whether they be victims’ families or police officers themselves. In this inquiry, all of the parties including the police were represented by experienced counsel”, Mr Moses said.

MEDIA CONTACT: Alastair McConnachie 0420314462