



Dr Ruth Higgins SC
President
NSW Bar Association
Selborne Chambers
B/174 Phillip Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email: president@nswbar.asn.au


Dear Dr Higgins,

Allegations regarding Connect Global residential rehabilitation facility

I am aware of a number of allegations about a private residential rehabilitation facility Connect Global operating in Swan Bay. I am advised that Connect Global is used as a residential rehabilitation facility for people subject to an accommodation requirement imposed as a condition of bail under section 28 of the *Bail Act 2013*.

The allegations include that clients of this facility are not provided appropriate alcohol and drug interventions by qualified professionals, and that supervision is inadequate, enabling clients to use alcohol, have unrestricted access to mobile phones and the internet, and leave the facility contrary to bail conditions.

This issue raises serious concerns and the Attorney General has asked the Department of Communities and Justice to conduct a review of the use of Connect Global as a matter of urgency.

While this review is ongoing, I ask that you consider drawing these allegations to the attention of legal practitioners and officers responsible for making submissions in bail proceedings in your respective organisations. I have also written to relevant Heads of

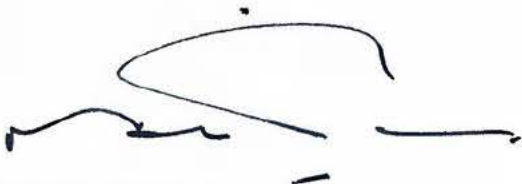
Jurisdiction so that they are aware of this issue and the Attorney General's request of me to review the issue.

NSW Health publishes a list of NSW Health funded alcohol and other drug withdrawal management and residential rehabilitation facilities on the NSW Health website at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/Pages/wmrs-contact.aspx>. I note that legal practitioners have professional obligations to act in the best interests of their client, and to ensure due diligence is exercised when making submissions about the adequacy of residential rehabilitation facilities and the suitability of bail conditions.

Any allegations of criminal activity at Connect Global, or any other residential rehabilitation facility in NSW, should be directed to NSW Police.

[Redacted signature area]

Yours sincerely,



Michael Tidball
Secretary

16 DEC 2024