

MEDIA RELEASE

CORONIAL PROCESS MUST BE RESPECTED

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NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION

Media commentary regarding a leaked draft report of the Deputy State Coroner in relation to the current inquest in relation to festival deaths is premature and fails to respect the coronial process, the President of the New South Wales Bar Association Tim Game SC said today.

“The Coroner’s role is to investigate the circumstances of certain deaths and make any relevant recommendations for systemic change to Government. It is then wholly a matter for Government as to how those recommendations are dealt with” Mr Game said.

“The draft report has been produced as part of the inquest’s consultation process with parties and interested participants, and its draft recommendations do not represent the finalised position of the Deputy State Coroner. The draft recommendations follow upon the taking of evidence in the course of the Inquest to date and the making of submissions by the parties and their purpose is to seek input from those involved prior to any final report” said Mr Game.

“The leaking of the draft recommendations followed by sustained attacks on the Deputy State Coroner and the draft report significantly undermine the coronial process” Mr Game said.

“I urge media commentators to recognise the ongoing nature of the coronial inquest and refrain from pre-emptive criticism which could be seen as attempting to influence independent proceedings conducted by a judicial officer” said Mr Game.

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