

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW GOVERNMENT MUST SEIZE OPPORTUNITY FOR CORONIAL REFORM



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION

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The NSW Bar Association welcomes the publication of the Report on the Statutory Review of the *Coroners Act 2009* (NSW).

President of the NSW Bar Association, Dr Ruth Higgins SC, said that reform of the coronial jurisdiction is necessary to strengthen the Coroners Court's ability to recommend systemic improvements to prevent future injuries and deaths.

"The NSW Government should take this opportunity to modernise and enhance the coronial jurisdiction and allocate sufficient resources in the 2024/25 NSW Budget to facilitate a standalone Coroners Court."

"A properly-resourced, standalone Coroners Court will deliver more expertise, better outcomes, and additional support for grieving families. It will have a greater capacity to ensure that families of a deceased person understand why a death has occurred, and will increase the prospect of avoiding future deaths."

"Coronial reform should recognise the unique status and needs of First Nations people, who are over-represented in custody. It should also recognise that NSW is the only jurisdiction in Australia which relies on regional magistrates and court registrars to undertake coronial responsibilities," Dr Higgins said.

The NSW Bar Association will carefully review the Report's 45 recommendations and continue to work with the NSW Government to deliver substantive coronial reform.

The "Report on the Statutory Review of the *Coroners Act 2009*" is available on the [NSW Parliament website](#).

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