



Coroner's Court
of New South Wales

Christmas and New Year Coronial Reporting Arrangements
24 December 2020 to 8th January 2021

1. Forensic Medicine Facilities - Operating times

Post mortems will be carried out as normal up to and including the 24th December 2020 at Lidcombe and Newcastle Forensic Medicine (FM) facilities.

Wollongong FM will not be performing examinations from the 23rd December 2020 and will resume services on the 27th January 2021.

The NSW Public Health Picnic day is the 31st December 2020, both Newcastle and Lidcombe FM will have staff rostered on this date to allow continued operations of forensic services. From the close of business on the **24th December 2020** the Christmas/New Year arrangements will commence and the following procedures will apply:

Friday 25 Dec – Public Holiday No Post Mortems

Week 1 Monday 28 Dec - Public Holiday, No Post Mortems.

Tuesday 29 Dec - Post Mortems conducted at Lidcombe and Newcastle

Wednesday 30 Dec - Post Mortems conducted at Lidcombe and Newcastle

Thursday 31 Dec - Limited P/M's conducted at Lidcombe and Newcastle

Friday 1 Jan - Public Holiday, No Post Mortems

Week 2 Monday 4 Jan - Post Mortems conducted at Lidcombe and Newcastle

Tuesday 5 Dec - Post Mortems conducted at Lidcombe and Newcastle

Wednesday 6 Jan - Post Mortems conducted at Lidcombe and Newcastle

Thursday 7 Jan - Post Mortems conducted at Lidcombe and Newcastle

Friday 8 Jan - Post Mortems conducted at Lidcombe and Newcastle

Monday 11th Jan - Normal operations resume

2. Procedure for Reporting of Deaths

During the two week period a ***duty Senior Coroner*** will be available during business hours at the State Coroners Court, Lidcombe to make Post Mortem and other directions for all deaths reported in NSW state-wide. After hours contact with the Duty Coroner is via the Duty Operations Inspector as normal.

Week 1: Deputy State Coroner Lee

Week 2: State Coroner O'Sullivan

In regional NSW, Police will report deaths to the following Courts:

(i) South Region

Wollongong: All deaths in the Wollongong area extending to Nowra, Milton, Moruya, Batemans Bay and Bega and also covering Cooma, Queanbeyan, Goulburn and southern Highlands Moss Vale PD's will be reported to Wollongong Court.

Email: local-court-wollongong@justice.nsw.gov.au

Wollongong Court phone: 4223 3622

Triage through Lidcombe FM.

(ii) North Region

Hunter-North Region –

Port Macquarie: All deaths in the Coffs Clarence, Mid North, Coast and Manning Great Lakes PD's will be reported to Port Macquarie.

Email: local-court-port-macquarie@justice.nsw.gov.au

Port Macquarie Court Phone: 6586 2410

Triage through Newcastle FM

Gosford (Newcastle): All Deaths from the Newcastle City, Hunter Valley, Port Stephens / Hunter, Lake Macquarie / Tuggerah Lakes and Brisbane Waters PD's will be reported to Gosford.

Email: local.court.gosford@justice.nsw.gov.au

Gosford Court Phone: 4304 6915

Triage through Newcastle FM

Tamworth: All deaths in the Oxley, Barwon and New England PD's will be reported to Tamworth.

Email: local-court-tamworth@justice.nsw.gov.au

Tamworth Court Phone: 6764 5787

Triage through Newcastle FM

Lismore: All deaths in Richmond & Tweed Byron PD's to be reported to Lismore.

Email: local-court-lismore@justice.nsw.gov.au

Lismore Court Phone: 07 55 08 5000 or 02 66 23 3628

Triage through Newcastle FM

(iii) South West Region

Temora

All deaths in the Murray, Murrumbidgee, Riverina PD's as well as deaths usually reported to Young and Grenfell PD's will be reported to Temora Court.

Triage through Newcastle FM

local-court-temora@justice.nsw.gov.au

Temora Court Phone: 02 6977 2072

(iv) Western Region

Lithgow

All deaths from the Central North, Central West, Chifley and Orana Mid-West and Barrier PD's will be reported to Lithgow Court.

Triage through Newcastle FM

local-court-lithgow@justice.nsw.gov.au

Lithgow Court Phone: 02 6352 7300

3. Triaging of Deaths procedures:

- (i) The death is reported to the allocated regional court by police and created on Justice Link including upload of P79A.
- (ii) The regional Court then triage death through the relevant Forensic facility as indicated above by scanning and emailing the P79A with a request to triage.
- (iii) The Duty Pathologist in line with current procedure will provide the duty Coroner the triage advice.
- (iv) The Duty Coroner will determine the appropriate order and this advice is provided to the Forensic facility and regional court in the usual manner.

Please note: The regional court will organise transfer of the body to the forensic facility applicable with a return transfer order.

If a **Coroner's Certificate** is issued by the Duty Coroner this advice will be forwarded to the regional court. The regional court will follow their usual process, *i.e.* they will advise the Forensic Counsellors within their catchment area who will then notify NOK. If the Coroner's Certificate is accepted, the regional court will produce the release paperwork. If the Next of Kin request a post mortem the regional court should notify the Duty Coroner as soon as possible via the local court email.

- (v) Objections and whole organs retentions are to be referred to the Coronial Information and Support team.

4. Release of body

Lidcombe Examinations: The Police Coroners Support Unit (CSU) will produce a burial order and notify the transfer company that the body can be returned to the region.

Please advise the CSU if it is known of a nominated Funeral Director for the body to be transferred directly to, otherwise the body will returned to the local Mortuary.

Newcastle Examinations: Newcastle FM will send the interim report to the reporting court. The reporting court will issue a burial order and advise the transfer company that the body can be returned.

The coronial file remains at the court of origin, i.e. where the death occurred.

Contact Numbers and Email addresses

Lidcombe

NSW State Coroner's Office: 02 8584 7777

Lidcombe.coroners@justice.nsw.gov.au

Coronial Information and Support (CISP): 02 8584 7784, 83, 82, 81

CISP@justice.nsw.gov.au

Police Coroners Support Team: 02 85847777

Sgt Michelle Harrison

Coronialenquiry@police.nsw.gov.au

Don McLennan Manager Coronial Services

02 85847722

Don.mclennan@justice.nsw.gov.au

Coordinator Coronial Case Management Unit

85847778

Registrar Lidcombe:

Ann Lambino 02 8584 7704

Ann.lambino@justice.nsw.gov.ai

Dep Registrar Lidcombe:

Kazeline Dawson 02 8584 7767

kazeline.dawson@justice.nsw.gov.au

Lidcombe Department of Forensic Medicine (DOFM): 9563 9000

Newcastle

Newcastle Department of Forensic Medicine: 02 4935 9700,

Duty Pathologist Newcastle: 0467 775639, Fax: 49 35 9730

Email: hnelhd-forensicmedicine@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

Statewide Mortuary Transfers: 1300 368 155

Email for Statewide: Steveanddonna@statewidetransfers.com.au