



## NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CORONER

Office of the State Coroner  
Coroners Court

1A Main Avenue  
LIDCOMBE NSW 2141

Telephone: (02) 8584 7777

Fax: (02) 8584 7766

### IDENTIFICATION OF DECEASED

9<sup>th</sup> April 2020

As a result of the current Covid-19 pandemic of which has caused certain restrictions that may not allow for a visual identification of a deceased person to be carried out.

The NSW State Coroner has given approval for visual identification of a deceased person by a person acquainted with the deceased by the use of platforms such as Skype, Face time, clear digital photo or other video methods.

It is preferable that the visual identification process be conducted with the identifying person physically present. However if this cannot be undertaken due to the current restrictions, the identity of the deceased can be carried out by facilitation of an electronic platform that clearly depicts the deceased to allow for appropriate identification.

- The depiction of the body must be clear and properly show facial and body features.
- The body must be in an appropriate state to allow for visual identification.
- If there is any doubt as to the identity by the identifying person or police, then other methods of identifying the deceased must be adopted.
- The Identification statement must include a reference as to the means of how the identification was undertaken.

Don McLennan

**Manager Coronial Services NSW** *on behalf of*

NSW State Coroner, Magistrate O'Sullivan