Coronial Inquiries – What You Need to Know

- If you have been involved in the care of or decisions about a person who has died unexpectedly while in care you may be called on to make a statement for the Coroner.
- You may also be required to make a statement if you are a witness to any relevant event in the care/death.
- Any statement you make could have serious legal, professional or industrial ramifications.
- It is important that you be aware that anything you write could be used against you.
- **You should not make any statement about the matter until you have contacted ANMF Information Centre for advice.**
- We may need to activate a referral for your Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) and make a referral to the external law firm that ANMF use.
- Coronial Inquiries often have a number of law teams there representing (1) the Department, (2) the family and (3) the counsel assisting the coroner. This can be daunting and it is important that YOU are protected. While you are only allowed your own representation if you are a ‘person of interest’ it is still worth seeking early advice.
- Coroner’s court proceedings and the names of witnesses within may be reported in the media. Again, ensure you are adequately prepared for this by initiating contact with the ANMF.
- **If you suspect you may be involved in a Coronial Inquiry, make contact with the ANMF Information Centre ASAP**
  - See the attached ANMF Info Sheet on how to make a statement if you need to start writing a statement, but remember, get in touch with the ANMF before submitting it anywhere else.

  It is much better to ask and be told ‘it’s ok’ than to not ask and find yourself in unexpected trouble!

Any members seeking any assistance in relation to coronial matter should contact the ANMF Information Centre on (03) 6223 6777 or 1800 001 241 (outside Hobart area).

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26 February 2016