

## Inquest into the death of Bryan Hodgkinson

Mr Hodgkinson died on 10 September 1987 from head injuries received in an assault whilst working as a taxi driver.

Coroner David O'Connell delivered his findings of inquest on 18 December 2018.

The Queensland Government responds to recommendations directed to government agencies at inquests by informing the community if a recommendation will be implemented or the reason why a recommendation is not supported.

The department named in this response will provide implementation updates until the recommendation is delivered. Further information relating the implementation of recommendations can be obtained from the responsible minister named in the response.

### Recommendation 1

The coroner referred the matter of the continued application of the *Coroners Act 1958* to the Attorney-General for consideration as to provide an amendment to the *Coroners Act 2003* to ensure that all inquests (including inquests part-heard, or inquests to be re-opened), no matter when the death occurred, now come within the ambit of the 2003 Act.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

On 5 July 2019 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice responded:

The Attorney-General has written to key legal stakeholders seeking their view on the recommended change to the law applying to inquests. The Attorney-General is currently considering the results of this consultation.

### On 3 February 2020 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Leader of the House responded:

On 28 November 2019, the Attorney-General introduced the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 to parliament. The Bill includes an amendment to the *Coroners Act 2003* to provide that inquests that have been previously heard, or are part-heard, under the (now repealed) *Coroners Act 1958* can be reopened (or stopped and reopened, in the case of part-heard inquests) under the *Coroners Act 2003*. The Bill was referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, which was publicly briefed on 10 December 2019. Submissions closed on 6 January 2020 and a public hearing was held on 17 January 2020.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee is due to table its report on the Bill on 21 February 2020. The Bill must then be debated by the Legislative Assembly.

### On 29 August 2020 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Leader of the House responded:

On 25 May 2020, the *Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020* commenced. The Act includes an amendment to the *Coroners Act 2003* to provide that inquests that have been previously heard, or are part-heard, under the (now repealed) *Coroners Act 1958* can be reopened (or stopped and reopened, in the case of part-heard inquests) under the *Coroners Act 2003*.