

Coroners Court of Victoria

The Family Support Program

Family Liaison Team | Koori Engagement Unit



Coroners Court
of Victoria



The role of the Coroners Court

- To investigate accidental or unexpected deaths and identify prevention opportunities
- Determine a person's identity a cause of death, make findings or recommendations as required,
- When a death is reported (over 7000 per year) the deceased are usually reviewed at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine co-located with The Coroner's Court.
- When the tests are complete the body is released to the family for the funeral
- The coronal investigation commences
- The investigation can sometimes include a formal inquest hearing
- A Finding is made by the coroner



What happens when a death is reported

Reportable Death

A death is reported to the Coroners Office if deemed a reportable death including but not limited to; suicide, homicide, unexcepted death.

Coronial Admissions and Enquires

Will facilitate the arrangement to take care of a deceased person, become the first point of contact with a family.

Release of a body

A loved one is released only when the Coroner and Pathologist have been able to conducted the required examinations. Families can nominate who they wished the loved one to be released too.

What happens next?

Coroners Case

The case will now move across to the Coroners Court a file created.

Investigation

The Coroner will determine what investigation is to be undertaken. A Coronial Investigator (police officer) will gather the required documents as requested by the coroner.

Findings/ Closure

A Finding is a written document that summarises the coronial investigation
The Finding is the last stage in the coronial process
Less than 3% of cases proceed to inquest.

Family Support Program

- Advocate for, and support families throughout the coronial process.
- Provide a trauma and culturally informed response to families presenting in distress and crisis.
- Provide families with bereavement support, education and referral to external services.
- Support court staff with specialist insight into the family perspective.
- Educate and engage with external services and stakeholders.



Family Liaison Team

- Support families through the coronial process
- Explain the process
- Provide regular updates to family members
- Provide warm referrals to external support services
- Assist families submit information
- Support families to apply for, and view coronial documents including photos
- Advocate on behalf of the family
- Provide in-court support

Families or support workers can contact us by emailing FLO@courts.vic.gov.au and we will respond within 48 hours.



Koori Engagement Unit

Led by the Koori Engagement Family Coordinator the Court has been able to commence a service to better meet the needs of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

The role has enabled the Indigenous community to have a cultural safe place that facilitates cultural protocols and supports the required sorry business components for Aboriginal families.

The Koori unit ensures that:

- Every Aboriginal passing is recorded, and family is engaged with;
- The Court through care of the deceased practices cultural best practices to support cultural protocols and guidelines;
- Families are managed through the process in a cultural and responsive way.

