

# Coroners Court of Victoria

☐ Public

## Practice Direction 5 of 2014

### Listings

#### Background

1. This practice direction is made pursuant to section 107 of the *Coroners Act 2008* (the Act) and is issued to ensure timely and cost effective management of the Coroners Court of Victoria's (the Court) resources.
2. The Act provides that a coroner should have regard to sections 7, 8 and 9 of the Act when investigating any reportable death or reviewable death.

#### Definitions

3. Coroner's investigator means a member of the police force nominated by the Chief Commissioner of Police or any other person nominated by the coroner to assist the coroner with his/her investigation into a reportable death. The coroner's investigator takes instructions directly from a coroner and carries out the role subject to the direction of a coroner.<sup>1</sup>
4. Directions hearing means a public hearing that is held by the Court in respect of a death (or a fire) for the purpose of the coroner providing interested parties direction as to the scope of the inquest, witnesses to be called and estimated duration.
5. Inquest means a public inquiry that is held by the Court in respect of a death or a fire. NOTE: an inquest is part of a coroner's investigation.
6. Mention means a public hearing that is held by the Court in respect of a death (or a fire) for the purpose of providing interested parties with the opportunity to be heard as to the future direction of the investigation.

#### Directions

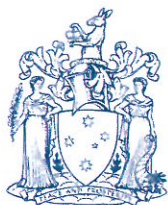
7. This practice direction applies to all hearings listed in the Court.

#### Court sittings hours

8. The official sitting hours of the Court commence at 9.15am and conclude at 4.45pm.

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<sup>1</sup> Previously referred to as an investigating member.



## Coroners Court of Victoria

### Directions hearing

9. All matters requiring a directions hearing will be listed, where possible, at 9.15am, 9.30am, 2.00pm or 3.30pm in Court 3, or any other court deemed appropriate.
10. The purpose of holding all directions hearings at one of these times is to enable the registry to list more than one matter in one court per day.
11. To allow for effective and efficient use of court time potential duration is to be considered when listing a matter for a directions hearing.

### Inquests

12. The sitting times will be directed by the coroner hearing the inquest.
13. Inquests are not to be listed beyond one (1) calendar year from the date of a directions hearing, without the approval of the State Coroner.
14. To ensure effective and efficient use of the Court, a coroner should, where possible, avoid sitting where there are insufficient witnesses to occupy the day.

### Revocation of previous related practice directions

15. Practice Direction 6 of 2011 is rescinded.

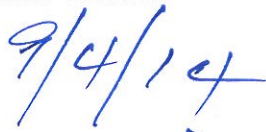
### Commencement

16. This practice direction takes effect immediately and retrospectively.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. Gray', written over the printed name 'Judge Ian Gray'.

Judge Ian Gray

State Coroner

A handwritten date '9/4/14' in blue ink, written below the printed name 'State Coroner'.