

27th March 2025

Mr. Terry Ryan

State Coroner

Office of The State Coroner

GPO Box 1649

Brisbane 4001

Re; Application to set aside the findings in the inquest into the death of Dr Karen Lee MAHLO

Dear Mr. Ryan,

I last wrote to the Office of The State Coroner about this matter on 1st September 2014 (enclosed) and received a reply from you dated 18th May 2015 (enclosed).

Please see also find enclosed an advance proof of a paper which will appear on-line in the *Journal of Law and Medicine* early next month and in print in May 2025.

Authored by two senior consultants, the paper reviews the critical events and highlights the shortcomings of the initial police investigation including failure to secure the death scene, failure to collect critical evidence (most particularly the printer attached to the printer) and the perfunctory questioning of the person of interest, Mr. John Hehir.

The paper then reviews proceedings in *Mahlo v Hehir* [2011] QSC 243 and compares the evidence Mr. Hehir gave during the contested will hearing in the Supreme Court and his subsequent evidence during the coronial inquest.

After critically analysing the autopsy findings, the paper emphasises that the death was presented to the original pathologist as a suicide by the police and the possibility of murder was not raised. The independent pathologist Dr Linda Iles was given a very limited brief and was not asked the relevant alternative question: "Were the findings at autopsy consistent with murder?"

I respectfully submit that the materials and expert opinion expressed in the paper cast significant doubt on the 2014 finding of Coroner Clements.

Given the analysis in the paper which highlighted how the original inquest was compromised by errors in reasoning and by cognitive biases, I respectfully submit that the 2014 finding of Coroner Clements could not be reasonably supported by the evidence and

that as a consequence, you ought to set aside the whole of the finding and order a re-opening of the inquest.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely,

Dr Desmond Mulcahy

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