




The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: 562210/1, 2624106

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie 

Thank you for your letter dated 7 August 2014 regarding Petition 2294-14, which advocates for the repeal of section 29 of the *Coroners Act 2003* (the Act) to allow the coroner to perform an inquest independently of any current legal action.

First, I wish to express my sincere condolences to Mr Michael Garrels and the Garrels family. I note with the greatest sympathy the terrible impact the death of Mr Garrels' son has had on his family and I understand the importance to Mr Garrels of holding an inquest as soon as possible. I would like to assure Mr Garrels and the petitioners that this Government is listening to their concerns and appreciates the significance of the issue raised.

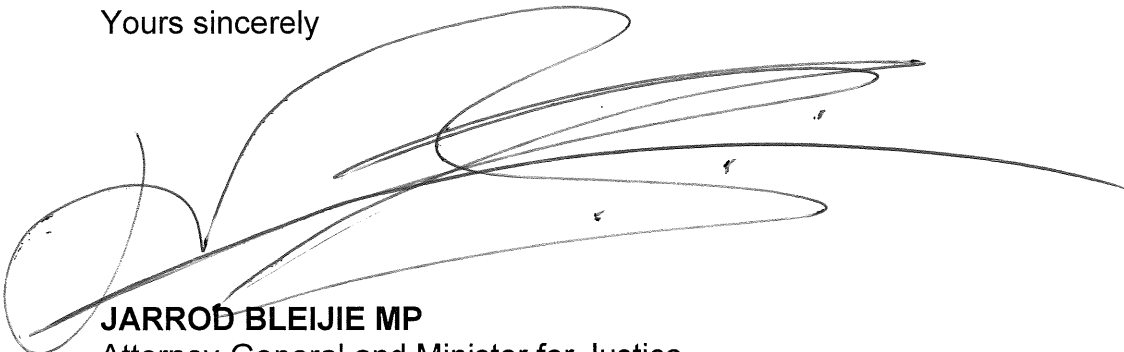
Earlier this year, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General commenced consultation with key stakeholders including the State Coroner, heads of jurisdiction, the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland, regarding a possible amendment to section 29 of the Act. The consultation process is ongoing and is expected to conclude shortly.

Following receipt of all submissions, I will consider the policy position presented by each of the key stakeholders consulted and identify the options available.

I have undertaken to provide the details of the feedback received on the issue of amending section 29 of the Act, directly to Mr Garrels.

I thank the petitioners for raising this important issue.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrod Bleijie".

JARROD BLEIJIE MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice