

In reply please quote: 2005/08156 J/05/06528

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 591-05

Thank you for your letter dated 30 November 2005 in relation to the Petition received by the Legislative Assembly on 29 November 2005 concerning the deaths of Mrs Vicki Arnold and Julie-Anne Leahy.

I have been informed that inquests have been held on previous occasions where findings were handed down, firstly, on 3 September 1992 and then, secondly, on 21 February 2000.

As the death occurred prior to the proclamation of the *Coroners Act 2003*, the Attorney-General can direct a coroner to hold an inquest under the *Coroners Act 1958*. Under section 47 of the *Coroners Act 1958*, I have the statutory power to direct that an inquest be reopened if I am satisfied it is necessary given the particular circumstances of each matter.

I have received a great deal of correspondence in relation to this matter. I advise that I am currently considering all the recent allegations that have been raised surrounding the circumstances of Mrs Arnold's death.

I undertake to advise the House of my decision on whether the inquest will be reopened when I have finalised my deliberations.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Hon Linda Lavarch MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice