



Robyn Preston MP

Member for Hawkesbury

MEDIA RELEASE

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LAW CHANGE EASES WAIT FOR GRIEVING FAMILIES IN HAWKESBURY

Families in Hawkesbury who lose loved ones in unexpected or unexplained circumstances will get the answers they need sooner under planned changes to the *Coroners Act 2009*.

Health Minister Brad Hazzard and Attorney General Mark Speakman introduced the proposals to NSW Parliament last week that aim to avoid unnecessary post mortem examinations.

Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston MP said the changes would greatly benefit families within Hawkesbury.

“The proposed amendments could reduce the number of unnecessary referrals to the Coroner and improve timeframes of other coronial investigations,” Ms Preston said.

Ms Preston said first amendment will remove the requirement to report a death to the Coroner where the deceased had not seen a doctor in the six months prior to death.

“Around 60 per cent of all cases reported to the NSW Coroner each year are the result of a natural death,” she said.

The second amendment will allow a forensic pathologist to undertake preliminary examinations of deceased people without the need for a direction from the Coroner.

Ms Preston said the last thing grieving families want at such a difficult time is a drawn-out coronial process.

“The people of Hawkesbury deserve a more expedited process so that families and friends can have the closure they need sooner and can lay their loved ones to rest,” Ms Preston said.

The obligation under the *Coroners Act 2009* to report unnatural, violent or suspicious deaths and sudden deaths from unknown causes will remain untouched.

Further opportunities for appropriate ways to improve the coronial process are currently being explored by a special Government taskforce.

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