



Coroners Court of Victoria

Practice Direction 9 of 2011

Regional coroner referrals

Background

- i) To assist regional coroners to manage their coronial workload, a sessional acting magistrate, has been made exclusively available to perform coronial work from the regions.
- ii) The sessional acting magistrate will be co-ordinated through the Principal Registrar at the Melbourne Coroners Court to endeavour to ensure that all regions have equal access to this resource and in a co-ordinated way.

Referral Criteria

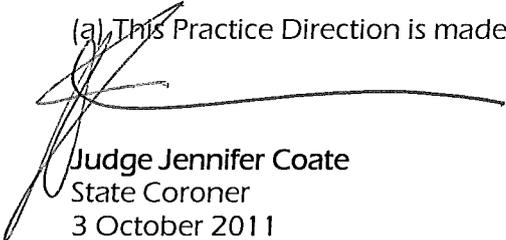
- iii) The criteria for requesting approval to have the sessional acting magistrate take over the coronial investigation are as follows:
 - (a) that all coroners in the region have a conflict, such that it would not be appropriate for any one of those coroners to continue with the investigation; or
 - (b) that the matter requires an inquest and that inquest is likely to have in excess of three sitting days; or
 - (c) that the investigation is a complex medical matter that may require an inquest

Referral Process

- iv) Once a regional coroner considers that s/he has a matter, which meets the above criteria, a memorandum setting out the basis of the referral is to be provided by the referring regional coroner.
- v) The memorandum and file should be sent to the Principal Registrar at Melbourne.
- vi) If after consideration by the State Coroner, the file is approved for transfer to the sessional acting magistrate, this will be confirmed by the Principal Registrar to the referring coroner and the regional registrar
- vii) In the event an inquest proceeds in the region, the referring court must supply a registrar to assist the coroner.

To enable the above to take effect, the following direction is made:

- (a) This Practice Direction is made pursuant to section 107 of the *Coroners Act* 2008



Judge Jennifer Coate
State Coroner
3 October 2011