



The Honourable Linda Lavarch MP
Member for Kurwongbah



Queensland
Government

In reply please quote: 2006/03118 J/06/02691

Attorney-General and
Minister for Justice

23 MAY 2006

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 26 April 2006 in relation to Petition No. 644-06 received by the Legislative Assembly on 21 April 2006 concerning the deaths of Mrs Vicki Arnold and Julie-Anne Leahy.

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

As the deaths occurred prior to the proclamation of the *Coroners Act 2003*, your request for assistance must be dealt with under the *Coroners Act 1958*. Under section 47 of that Act, 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 advise that I am currently considering all the recent allegations that have been raised surrounding the circumstances of Vicki Arnold's and Julie-Anne Leahy's deaths.

I undertake to advise you 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

18th Floor State Law Building
50 Ann Street Brisbane
GPO Box 149 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 3239 3478
Facsimile +61 3220 2475
Email attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Web www.justice.qld.gov.au