

OFFICIAL

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3 NOV 2025

The Hon. Meg Webb MLC
Independent Member for Nelson
meg.webb@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Webb

Meg

Thank you for meeting with me on 15 October 2025 and for your subsequent correspondence of 20 October 2025 regarding the Coroner's report and the distressing circumstances surrounding the unlawful collection and display of autopsy samples. I acknowledge the profound grief and trauma experienced by families affected by this matter, and I want to assure you that I take their concerns extremely seriously.

As I advised at our meeting, I have written to both the Director of Public Prosecutions and Tasmania Police to make them aware of the Coroner's report and for their consideration of the matter.

I can further advise that the Minister for Health has instructed her Department to undertake further work to establish, as far as possible, the identity of any employees within that Department during the period from the 1950s to the early 1990s who may have been involved in the retention of remains without lawful authority and consent.

I can confirm that the Government intends to develop, in consultation with those affected, an appropriate form of parliamentary apology. As you acknowledge, this is an appropriate step given pain that those affected have experienced. All Members of Parliament will have the opportunity to acknowledge and contribute to the apology.

The Government intends to provide a further update to Parliament on this process and the other actions being taken in relation to this matter before the end of the year.

I also note that, in May 2025, I announced a review of the *Coroners Act 1995*, to be undertaken by the Tasmanian Law Review Institute (TLRI). I will be engaging with the TLRI to ensure that families affected by this troubling matter have the opportunity to contribute to the review.

I again extend my sincere sympathy to all families impacted by these events. Thank you for your advocacy on their behalf. I look forward to working with you and other Members of Parliament to ensure a parliamentary apology can occur in an appropriate, sensitive and trauma-informed manner.

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Guy Barnett".

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs