



Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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FILMING OF CURTI INQUEST A VICTORY FOR OPEN JUSTICE

Attorney General Greg Smith SC today welcomed the State Coroner's decision to allow a television news camera to film the conclusion of the inquest into the death of Brazilian man Roberto Laudisio Curti.

Magistrate Mary Jerram will today deliver her findings into the death of Mr Curti at the State Coroner's Court in Glebe.

"While cameras aren't typically allowed in court, the State Coroner has made an exception for the inquest findings due to the significant public interest in the case both locally and abroad," Mr Smith said.

Earlier in the inquest, Magistrate Jerram also permitted the filming of Counsel Assisting the Coroner, Jeremy Gormly SC's opening address and a statement given by Mr Curti's family.

"The NSW Coroner's Court is unlike any jurisdiction in Brazil and I am sure the transparency of the inquest has made it easier for the many millions of people in Mr Curti's home country to follow the proceedings via the media," Mr Smith said.

The level of media interest in the inquest has been unprecedented for the NSW Coroner's Court, with more than 20 Australian and international journalists attending the hearing.

"While the public gallery at the inquest has filled up quickly on most days, any reporter unable to secure a seat has been able to watch a live stream of the proceedings in the waiting area of the Coroner's Court," Mr Smith said.

In recent years, television news crews and documentary makers have been permitted to film a range of proceedings in NSW including District Court trials, Supreme Court sentences and Circle Sentencing hearings.

Mr Smith said allowing television cameras into courts in appropriate cases was helping to build confidence in the justice system.

"The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research has found people who are more informed about crime and criminal justice are more likely to have confidence in sentencing," Mr Smith said.