



MAGISTRATES COURT *of* TASMANIA

CORONIAL DIVISION

Record of Investigation into Death (Without Inquest)

Coroners Act 1995
Coroners Rules 2006
Rule 11

I, Madeleine Wilson, Coroner, having investigated unidentified human remains (FM1419)

Find, pursuant to Section 28(1) of the *Coroners Act 1995*, that:

- a) The unidentified human remains were a half skeleton and bones;
- b) The unidentified human remains' cause of death is undetermined;
- c) The unidentified human remains were used for medical teaching and demonstration purposes at the Royal Hobart Hospital;
- d) The unidentified human remains were probably brought into Australia from the Indian sub-continent.

In making the above findings, I have had regard to the evidence gained in the investigation which includes:

- The Police Report of Death for the Coroner;
- Information provided by the Royal Hobart Hospital Prosthetics Department;
- Opinion of the Forensic Anthropologist; and
- Opinion of the forensic pathologist.

For several decades, the unidentified human remains were held at Orthotic Prosthetic Services Tasmania and used by the Royal Hobart Hospital Amputee Prosthetic Clinic as a teaching tool.

On 2 August 2024, the unidentified human remains were delivered to the Royal Hobart Hospital Mortuary by the Clinical Lead Orthotist Prosthetist.

The unidentified human remains were subsequently examined by the Forensic Anthropologist who determined them to be an incomplete teaching half-skeleton, likely sourced from multiple individuals.

Examinations conducted by the Forensic Anthropologist and Forensic Pathologist noted that there were no obvious racial features of the remains. Information received suggested that the bones were probably imported or otherwise brought to Australia for anatomical teaching purposes from the Indian sub-continent. An academic and commercial practice which has now ceased.

On 7 November 2024, Coroner Cooper authorised for the unidentified human remains to be disposed of pursuant to s32(1) of the *Coroners Act 1995* and they were subsequently cremated.

Comments and recommendations

The circumstances surrounding the unidentified human remains are not such that require me to make any comments or recommendations pursuant to section 28 of the *Coroners Act 1995*.

Dated: 2 October 2026 at Hobart, in the State of Tasmania.

Madeleine Wilson
Coroner