9 June 2022

**Media Release**

**CORONIAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF SIX CHILDREN AT HILLCREST PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Coroner Olivia McTaggart is investigating the death of six children at Hillcrest Primary School on 16 December 2021. Due to the high level of interest within the community regarding this matter, the Coroner wishes to provide an update as to the investigation.

Experienced officers of Tasmania Police and Work Safe Tasmania have been assisting the Coroner in compiling evidence in the investigation, including many witness affidavits, since the date of the event. A very large amount of investigative work has taken place already, with the coroner coordinating the investigation and holding regular meetings with members of the investigation teams.

The Coroner has recently been provided with evidence obtained in the course of the investigation by Tasmania Police. The Coroner will also subsequently receive the evidence in the Work Safe investigation concerning the involved business, equipment and setup. When the evidence in the investigation is complete, the Coroner will consider retaining relevant experts. These are likely to include meteorological expert(s) regarding the weather conditions on the day and engineering or scientific expert(s). It will take some further time to secure the appropriate expert opinion.

It is hoped that all evidence, including all necessary expert opinion, will be received within coming months. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to provide precise timeframes for completion of the investigation.

The Coroner will hold a public inquest into the deaths of all six children jointly. The dates for holding the inquest will depend upon various factors but the Coroner wishes to advise that she will give priority to scheduling the Inquest as soon as reasonably possible.

For more information please contact:

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