

QCCL MEDIA RELEASE

LEANNE HOLLAND REVIEW LACKS CREDIBILITY

The Civil Liberties Council today welcomed the Police Commissioner's review into the death of Leanne Holland but criticised the makeup of the review body.

QCCL Vice President Terry O'Gorman said that the review consisting of three Queensland police and one New South Wales police officer was distorted and lacking in credibility.

"The review body should be made up entirely of police from other states which is a process regularly engaged in by British police where police from another British police service are brought in to, say, review a particular controversy surrounding London's Metropolitan Police or Scotland Yard".

Mr O'Gorman said that having the review body made up of three fourths of Queensland police personnel would create a perception in the public mind similar to the disgraceful process of Senior Sergeant Hurley's mates being brought in to investigate Hurley's role in the Doomadgee death.

The announcement by the Queensland Police Commissioner highlights yet again calls made by the QCCL over the last decade for the establishment of an independent body to investigate allegations of miscarriages of justice.

"The British set up the Criminal Cases Review Commission a decade ago and since then the Commission which is completely independent of the police and prosecutors have referred a number of cases back to the UK Court of Appeal which has resulted in a number of convictions being overturned because the Court has found that a miscarriage of justice has occurred," Mr O'Gorman said.

We call on the Police Minister to direct the Police Commissioner to reconstitute the review into Leanne Holland's death so that it is made up entirely of interstate police and supervised by an independent eminent lawyer.

"As well the review should look into the role of the Queensland DPP in the prosecution of Graham Stafford particularly in light of last week's comments by ex DPP prosecutor Vischal Laksmann that he refused to prosecute the matter because he had concerns about the nature of the police evidence," Mr O'Gorman said.

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Queensland Council for Civil Liberties