

Draft Approval Criteria for Inquest Training Courses

Requirement	Proposed minimum approval criterion
Course audience	The course must be designed for and open to legal practitioners wishing to undertake inquest work, or must contain a clearly identified legal-practitioner route. A generic witness-familiarisation course, operational staff course, or non-lawyer evidence-giving course does not qualify on its own.
Delivery format	The qualifying element must be delivered live in person, live online or through a hybrid format with meaningful opportunity for interaction, questions or discussion. Pre-recorded or self-paced material may supplement the course but should not satisfy the requirement on its own.
Syllabus	The course must cover, at a practical introductory-to-intermediate level, all of the following: • Purpose, legal framework and inquisitorial nature of coronial investigations and inquests, including the limits on determining civil or criminal liability. • Core inquest lifecycle: reporting and opening, interested person status, disclosure, pre-inquest review hearings, witness and expert evidence, hearing preparation, conclusions, and post-hearing steps. • Public body participation: organisational witnesses, document preservation, privilege, confidentiality, data protection, redaction, transparency, candour, escalation and conflicts between organisational and individual interests. • Article 2 issues and their practical consequences for scope, evidence, systems issues, juries, conclusions and organisational preparation. • Advocacy and professional conduct in the Coroner's Court, including appropriate questioning, written and oral submissions, and the non-adversarial character of the jurisdiction. • Working with bereaved families, vulnerable participants and unrepresented interested persons, including tone, language, professionalism and sensitivity. • Prevention of Future Deaths reports, including risk identification, submissions, responses, publication and organisational learning.

Requirement	Proposed minimum approval criterion
Practical application	The course must include at least one practical element, such as a case study, mock pre-inquest review hearing, disclosure exercise, witness-questioning exercise, draft submission exercise, Prevention of Future Deaths scenario or facilitated discussion of a realistic fact pattern.
Trainer expertise	The lead trainer, or at least one trainer, must have substantial recent inquest experience as a solicitor, barrister, coroner, legal adviser, senior public body practitioner, legal academic or other suitably experienced coronial law practitioner.
Course currency	The provider must confirm that the course materials are reviewed at least annually and updated for material changes in coronial law, Chief Coroner guidance, professional conduct expectations and relevant public body duties.
Attendance evidence	The provider must issue a certificate or attendance confirmation showing the course title, provider, date, delivery mode, duration description, trainer and confirmation of attendance. For split-session or live-online courses, the solicitor must attend all required sessions or any provider-specified completion route.
Assessment and engagement	A formal pass/fail examination is not required. The course must, however, include a reasonable mechanism for confirming meaningful attendance or engagement, such as an attendance register, interactive participation, a knowledge check, completion declaration or practical exercise.
Accessibility and reasonable adjustments	The provider must be able to make reasonable adjustments for delegates and provide accessible materials on request.