The Investigation of Deaths in Custody Down Under
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Objectives:

By the end of the presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the most common causes of deaths in custody in Australia.
2. Identify steps to ensure reviewability of post mortem examinations of those dying in custody.
3. Justify the qualified application of context in interpreting post mortem findings in those dying in the setting of restraint.

The Australian data on deaths in custody cases will be presented with specific reference to the custodial deaths of indigenous Australians. Definitions, investigative systems and the forensic pathology procedures utilised at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine in Melbourne, the largest medicolegal death investigation centre in Australia will also be reviewed.