



GREENWAY CHAMBERS

Tim Hackett

Solicitor 1993 / Barrister 2016

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Practice

Tim Hackett is a barrister with deep experience in complex common law litigation, insurance and commercial disputes, professional discipline and commissions of inquiry. He is an acknowledged expert in health law, bushfire class actions, insurance litigation and common law. He has acted and appeared in leading cases in varied areas of law.

Tim is known for his forensic, collaborative and direct approach. His aptitude as an advocate exceeds his seniority at the bar. He regularly appears unled against senior counsel on hearings and commissions of inquiry. He is a clear thinker and communicator, attuned to the pragmatic aspects of disputes, while fiercely advocating his client's position. Tim also readily identifies those cases in which discretion may be the better part of valour.

Tim has led large-scale litigation teams for NSW Government public authorities, commercial insurers and in class actions related to blood products and Thredbo landslide. Tim has successfully defended to judgment the first Australian case on the duty of care of government authorities in response to a naturally-caused bushfires.

Tim has a broad practice ranging from health law and insurance disputes to intentional torts and historical abuse. Tim has a strong practice in professional discipline matters and commissions of inquiry. Tim appears for government and corporate clients, where he is mindful of reputational risk and commercial relationships. Tim also appears for clients without a voice and for whom access to justice or cultural sensitivities may be a challenge. He actively listens to all stakeholders and champions respectful dealings with all comers.

Tim's sought-after advice led to his appointment to ministerial committees and he has been involved in shaping policy and legislation concerning disclosure and statutory privilege for incident investigations in NSW Health.

Tim is a facilitator of expert conclaves. He volunteers in NSW Bar Association's LARS Coronial Inquest Pilot Program, appears in pro bono matters by arrangement and contributed to the Australian Pro Bono Manual.

Outside chambers, Tim is a music obsessive and lead singer with Carpark Now. Some of his sporting therapies include running, skiing and surfing with an exotic men's shed known as the Curly Creche.

Areas of Expertise

Health Law

Public Law

Bushfire Litigation

Insurance law

Professional discipline

Historical Abuse

Historical Sexual Abuse

Class Actions

Comissions of inquiry

Common law

Qualifications

- Master of Laws (Health Law) (Sydney) 1999
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Career Highlights

- Defending the first Australian case on duty of care related to naturally-caused bushfire and appearing in bushfire inquiries and class actions.
 - Appearing in leading appellate cases concerning duty of care in health law and unled in the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.
 - Appearing for corrective service providers, doctors and indigenous families in numerous inquests into deaths in custody.
 - Appearing for doctors in professional discipline matters, including successful reinstatements to practice, displacing previous findings of professional misconduct.
 - Appearing for public authorities, institutions and individual survivors of historical abuse.
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Professional Recognition

- Legal 500 Commercial Disputes - Leading Juniors 2025
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Common law, commercial disputes and insurance

Tim appears for State of NSW (DCJ), institutions and plaintiffs in claims related to historical sexual abuse

- **Pols v Farooque [2026] NSWSC 446** - multiple medical negligence proceedings related to catastrophic outcome from surgery and death one year later- infant approval.
- **Hickey v State of NSW - 2025/00049993 Catsanos DCJ 8 April 2026** - appeared for State of NSW (DCJ) on application related to Storer orders in historical abuse proceedings.
- **Creary v Essential Energy;; Tathra Beach Motor Village Pty Ltd v Essential Energy;; Harris v Essential Energy; Rowland v Essential Energy (No.2) [2024] NSWSC 56** appeared unled in bushfire class-action
- **Creary v Essential Energy; Tathra Beach Motor Village Pty Ltd v Essential Energy; Harris v Essential Energy; Rowland v Essential Energy [2024] NSWSC 37** appeared unled in bushfire class-action
- **Appeared for a fight doctor in proceedings** following death of a boxer in 12th round of an IBF Title subject of media attention and a book (unled against Alan Sullivan KC) resolved at mediation.
- **Eastbury v Genea Limited [2017] NSWSC 1289** appeared for a defendant in 2 week hearing concerning wrongful birth proceedings related to genetic diagnosis of Fragile X syndrome (led by Weinstein SC).
- **El-Mouelhy v Reid [2017] NSWSC 623** - defended application seeking interrogatories - unled against Romaniuk SC.
- **Hobson v Northern Sydney Local Health District & Ors [2017] NSWSC 589** appeared for defendant surgeon judgment overturned in NSWCA (Sparks v Hobson [2018] NSWCA 29). Special leave denied.
- **Acted for the NSW Ministerial Office in equity proceedings.** Multimillion-dollar freezing orders were obtained following failure to account in a tripartite agreement involving a corporation in Zurich.
- **Rothonis bht Dr Theo Rothonis v Dr Lattimore (2016) NSWSC.** Tim successfully defended a cardiologist in this two-week hearing, appearing with Weinstein SC and Richardson SC.
- **Dollars R Us v Qiu.** obtained judgment for breach of confidentiality under contract, intentional tort related to cyberbullying, commercial proceedings in restraint of trade and intellectual property rights (unreported).
- **Appeared for a defendant strata manager in a hearing in the District Court.** These proceedings were dismissed and an indemnity costs order obtained.
- **Zhang v ROC Services (NSW) Pty Ltd; National Transport Insurance by its manager NTI Ltd v Zhang [2016] NSWCA 370.** Judgment for the defendant in a professional indemnity claim. The plaintiff refused special leave to the High Court on the issue of denial of indemnity under an insurance contract.

Commissions of inquiry

Tim regularly appears in a broad range of commissions of inquiry and royal commissions with particular expertise in appearing in inquests into numerous deaths in custody for corrective service providers and medical practitioners.

- **Inquest into the death in custody of Amanawel Ayai** - DSC Lee (Findings outstanding) - appeared for private corrective services provider - death due to complications of small bowel obstruction
- **Inquest into the death in custody of Leonard Maggs** - DSC O'Neill (25 June 2026) - appeared for private corrective services provider - self-inflicted death.
- **Inquest into the death in custody of Fred Elrezz** - DSC O'Neill (25 June 2026) - appeared for private corrective services provider - self-inflicted death.
- **Inquest into the death in custody of PE** - DSC Grahame (1 May 2026) - appeared for private corrective services provider - self-inflicted death.
- **Inquest into the death of Gavin Andrew** - DSC O'Neill (Findings outstanding): appeared for five doctors in relation to death following minimally invasive mitral valve surgery - Unled against Mahony SC Downing SC.
- **Inquest into the death in custody of ET** - DSC O'Neill (Findings outstanding): appeared for a doctor - death related to Buprenorphine, Mirtazapine, obesity and sleep apnoea - Unled against Gerace SC Fraser SC.
- **Inquest into the death in custody of Robert Bickerstaff** - DSC O'Neill (26 May 2025) appeared for private corrective services provider - Unled against Windsor SC.
- **Inquest into the death in custody of Benjamin Cullen** - DSC O'Neill (8 December 2025) : appeared for private corrective services provider- death due to acute and chronic hydrocephalus caused by a tumour abutting the cerebral aqueduct - Unled against Windsor SC.
- **Inquest into the death in custody of Michael Black** - DSC Grahame (22 August 2025) - appeared for private corrective services provider related to violent assault / alleged murder in custody during COVID.
- **Inquest into the death in custody of James Cunneen** - DSC O'Neill (23 July 2025) - appeared for private corrective services provider in a death due to ischaemic heart disease with a bleeding duodenal ulcer being a significant contributing condition.
- **Inquest into the death of Cameron De Vries** - DSC Hosking (28 February 2025) - appeared for Interaction Disability Services- drowning of NDIS patient with undiagnosed epilepsy in group home.
- **Inquest into the death in custody of Daniel Turnbull** - DSC Kennedy (19 February 2025) - appeared for private corrective services provider death caused by hyponatraemia, with psychogenic polydipsia and schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder antecedent causes.
- **Inquest into the death of Fiona Goodberg** - DSC Lee (24 October 2024) - appeared for the family in an inquest related to maternal suicide - Unled against Chiu SC, Walsh SC and Dwyer SC.
- **Inquest into the death in custody of VH** - DSC Forbes (17 May 2024) - appeared for a doctor in death following ischaemic bowel.

- **Inquest into the death in custody of DP** - DSC Grahame (16 November 2023) - appeared for private corrective services provider in a self-inflicted death.
- **Inquest into the death in custody of CJ** - DSC Forbes (6 June 2023) - appeared for private corrective services provider in a self-inflicted death.
- **Inquest into the death in custody of Roy Roberts** - DSC Grahame (3 February 2023) - appeared for a doctor- self-inflicted death.
- **Inquest into the death in custody of Mr ZH** - DSC Huntsman (12 October 2022) - appeared for private corrective services provider in a self-inflicted death.
- **Inquest into the death of S B** - DSC Lee (16 September 2022) - appeared for a doctor- self-inflicted death appeared for a doctor- self-inflicted death in a mental health unit.
- **Inquiry into a bushfire at Reedy Swamp (Tathra NSW)** - Tim appeared for a vegetation management company- led by Goodman SC in a wide-ranging (6 week) bushfire inquiry.
- **Inquest into the death in custody of John Laurenson** (31 March 2021) - appeared for three doctors - death due to a ruptured aneurysm whilst awaiting brain surgery.
- **Inquest into the death of Nathan Reynolds.** Tim appeared for a doctor in an inquest into the death of an indigenous man in custody (October 2020) which attracted significant media attention.
- **Inquest into the death of Esteban Franco-Garces.** Tim appeared for a doctor in an inquest into the death of a neonate from sepsis at The Children's Hospital Westmead (February 2020).
- **The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety: BUPA South Hobart Case Study 13 - 15 November 2019** (counsel assisting Peter Rozen QC). Tim appeared unled for BUPA Head of Operations.
- **Inquest into the death of Hazel Brockett.** Tim appeared for an aged care nurse in an inquest into a death following an assault in an aged care facility.
- **Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug 'Ice'** with Gail Furness SC
- **Inquest into the death of Melissa King.** appeared for a gastroenterologist into a death in ICU.
- **Inquest into death of Thomas Redman.** appeared two Westpac Helicopter retrieval doctors in an inquest into death of a teenager from exsanguination in remote NSW - against Hooke SC.
- **Inquest into the death of Lesley Arndell.** appeared for 3 doctors in the inquest against Windsor SC.
- **Inquest into the death of RR.** Tim was briefed to appear for the family of the deceased indigenous woman related to a self-inflicted death in a mental health facility.
- **Inquest into the death of DH.** Tim appeared for the family of the deceased indigenous man before State Coroner Mabbutt following an anaesthetic for a routine procedure.
- **Inquest into the disappearance and suspected death of Christine Young.** appeared for a specialist psychiatrist in to death in remote desert near Broken Hill before State Coroner O'Sullivan.

Public Law and Professional Discipline

- **Tim regularly appears in NCAT Occupational Division, the Medical Council of NSW and Ministerial VMO appeals under Chapter 8, Health Services Act 1997 (NSW)**
- **Gao v Health Care Complaints Commission [2025] NSWCATOD 69** - Successful reinstatement where the registration of the Practitioner was cancelled following gravely serious findings of misconduct - level of insight where denials of conduct maintained.
- **Chen v Medical Council of New South Wales [2021] NSWCATOD 33** - Successful reinstatement where the registration of the Practitioner was cancelled related to prescription of Schedule 8 drugs.
- **Brennan v Medical Council of NSW [2020] NSWCATOD 100** - Successful reinstatement practitioner's registration was cancelled following gravely serious findings of misconduct - ethical boundary violation.
- **Dr Amos v Western NSW Sydney Local Health District [2016] NSWSC 1162.** appeared with Richardson SC in an administrative law matter concerning a consultant's contract with a hospital.
- **R v Obeid (2016) (No 11) NSWSC 974.** appeared in this high profile case concerning wilful misconduct in public office with P Neil SC and S Beckett SC. He contributed to drafting of submissions on sentencing for the sentencing hearing which was the first of its type in Australia and internationally.