

Formal death inquiry bid

Mackay family's campaign

THE family of the late Don Mackay has released a petition in a push for a formal investigation into his death.

Port Macquarie widow Therese Mackay and her family handed out 950 petitions and leaflets in Macquarie St, Sydney, on Wednesday.

They strung posters up along the front fence of NSW Parliament House in a bid to get their message across.

Mrs Mackay's quadriplegic husband Don died on May 17 last year, five weeks after he was admitted to Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital for a routine lung drain and biopsy to identify the cause of fluid build-up

Mrs Mackay claims "unnecessary surgery" contributed to his decline into respiratory arrest and eventually acute respiratory distress syndrome.

He was 56.

The petition calls on Premier Morris Iemma and Health Minister Reba Meagher to hold a full, independent and open investigation into the surgery, treatment, care and subsequent death of Don Mackay.

The petition asks that those responsible, if found culpable, be subject to disciplinary action.

"We've done our best to go through the official channels," Mrs Mackay said.

"We are finding the channels

are not working and we are making our own channels."

Mrs Mackay has obtained her husband's hospital records, lodged a complaint with the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission, given evidence at a parliamentary inquiry into Royal North Shore Hospital, and a special commission of inquiry into the state's hospital system during a recent Port Macquarie hearing.

Mrs Mackay told the Port News she wanted "justice" to be done.

NSW Nationals leader Andrew Stoner has offered to present the petition to parliament.



Determined: Veronica Spencer, Melissa Mackay and Carmel Lewis at the petition launch in Sydney.



Attention: Passersby look at posters during the petition launch at NSW Parliament House.