



## Hobart Mercury

05/08/2010

Page: 9

By: Nick Clark

Section: General News

Region: Hobart Circulation: 45210

Type: Capital City Daily

Size: 70.00 sq.cms

Frequency: MTWTFS-

# DPP defends charge decision

NICK CLARK

THE mother of a Coffs Harbour man killed in Deloraine this year was told the reason why murder charges did not go ahead, Director of Public Prosecutions Tim Ellis SC said yesterday.

Mr Ellis was responding to Lavinia Dingle's statement on Tuesday that she was confused and bewildered about the outcome of the case.

A 17-year-old youth who pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of Simon Dingle, 27, was jailed for three years.

"Deeply sympathetic as I am to Mrs Dingle's grief on her terrible loss, I hesitate to respond at all to the article in today's *Mercury*," Mr Ellis said.

"However, I feel I am obliged to point out that the Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Daryl Coates SC, discussed the charging decisions and their reasons with Mrs Dingle in great detail prior to the guilty plea of the accused."

Mr Dingle was killed by a single punch which severed the vertebral artery in his neck.

In sentencing, Justice Crawford said the youth was sentenced for manslaughter because he had not foreseen that death was the likely consequence of his action.

Police Association of Tasmania president Randolph Wierenga said police believed the sentence was at the lower end of the scale.