

# Australian mother thanks 'science' for child murder pardon

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An Australian mother convicted of killing her children claimed a "victory for science" on Tuesday after an unexpected research breakthrough helped win her freedom after 20 years in prison.

Kathleen Folbigg was jailed in 2003 after she was convicted of killing her four infant [children](#), who died separately without explanation between 1989 and 1999.

She was found guilty despite a lack of forensic evidence linking her to the deaths and steadfastly maintained her innocence during her 20-year incarceration.

Scientific breakthroughs in recent years have uncovered [genetic mutations](#) that helped explain why some of the children died, paving the way for Folbigg to be released from [prison](#) on Monday.

"I'm extremely humbled and extremely grateful for being pardoned and released from prison," Folbigg said in her first public statement since being released.

"Today is a victory for science and especially truth."

The 55-year-old also said in a short video message she would grieve for her children "forever", and "missed them and loved them terribly".

Folbigg was pardoned by New South Wales Governor Margaret Beazley

after a long-running inquiry concluded there was "reasonable doubt" she had killed her children.

Although she has won her freedom, Folbigg must now go through a separate legal process to have her convictions officially overturned.

Folbigg's lawyer Rhanee Rego said Australia's court system had "failed her at every step", and it had taken authorities far too long to reopen the case.

"If Australia really wants to make some good from a tragic story, they'll seriously consider reviewing the system of post-conviction review," she told reporters.

"Instead of trying to understand why her children died, potentially through an inquest... we threw her in [jail](#), locked her up, called her Australia's worst female serial killer."

Rego said Folbigg's legal team would fight to clear her name and make sure "right is done by her".

## 'Bamboozled'

The Australian Academy of Science, which played a crucial role in the Folbigg inquiry, described the convictions as "Australia's greatest miscarriage of justice".

"What this case has absolutely shown is there's an absence of a mechanism for the justice system to consider new information, particularly [scientific information](#)," chief executive Anna-Maria Arabia told national broadcaster ABC.

Folbigg was released on Monday from a prison in Grafton, in the north

of New South Wales state, where she had been serving a sentence of at least 25 years.

Long-time friend Tracy Chapman said Folbigg was slowly getting her head around the wonders of modern technology, such as smartphones and on-demand television.

"She slept for the first time in a real bed, had a cup of tea in a real crockery cup, real spoons to stir with," Chapman told reporters.

"That sounds basic to you all, but she's grateful.

"The phones have bamboozled her a bit. Even the television she was going, 'Oh my god, it's got so many capabilities'."

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