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CHILDERS INQUEST: FAMILIES REPRESENTED

Today marks the beginning of another chapter in the lengthy legal battle by families hit by the Childers hostel fire of June 23 2000.

A coronial inquest into the deaths of 15 backpackers begins today in Childers and is expected to last five days.

The deceased include four Australians, seven Britons, two Dutch nationals, one Japanese and a South Korean.

Families of 11 of the deceased are being represented by Mitchell Brown from Slater & Gordon, Brisbane.

Slater & Gordon represents 23 plaintiffs from around the world, including the Slarke family of Western Australian who lost 27-year-old twins Kelly and Stacey Slarke.

With the defendants denying liability for the blaze, the families are preparing for legal action.