



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander health practice
Chinese medicine
Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Medical radiation practice
Nursing and Midwifery
Occupational therapy
Optometry
Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Private and Confidential

23 August 2016

Attn: Cheryl Vella – Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court Of Victoria
65 Kavanagh St
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006



Dear Ms Vella

Notice of Board decision to Investigate and Request for Information

Your reference COR 2010 004762

I acknowledge receipt of your letter on 6 June 2016 (dated 1 June 2016), enclosing a copy of the inquest finding including recommendations into the death of Mr Benjamin Appelman.

I note your recommendation, pursuant to section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008 (Vic)* the Act) that the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority (AHPRA) considers the circumstances in which Mr Appelman died, and takes whatever action it deems appropriate in relation to Dr Tang and Dr Stiebel. I also note that the Act requires a written response to the recommendation no later than three months from the date of receipt of the letter regarding the action that has, is or will be taken in relation to the recommendation.

As you are aware, AHPRA works closely with the Medical Board of Australia (the Board) to ensure that only health practitioners who are trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered. On 21 July 2016, the Board decided to take the following action:

1. Commence an investigation into Dr Chi Tang's treatment of Mr Appelman.
2. Commence an investigation into Dr Peter Stiebel's treatment of Mr Appelman.

About 33% of the notifications received by National Boards are referred for investigation. A decision to investigate is not an adverse outcome or a suggestion of adverse outcome in relation to the subject practitioner(s); it is one of the ways a Board can gather further information to help it decide whether any action is necessary or appropriate in response to a notification.

I trust that the foregoing satisfactorily addresses the request for a formal written response to what action has, is or will be taken in relation to the recommendation made by the Coroner under section 72(2) of the Act.

Future activity

Ms Elizabeth Hutchings, Investigator, has been appointed to assist the Board and investigate the matter relating to Dr Chi Tang and Ms Amy Lipow, Investigator, has been appointed to assist the Board and investigate the matter relating to Dr Peter Stiebel.

Request for information

To assist with this investigation, AHPRA would like to be provided with the coronial brief and inquest transcript as directed in the inquest finding. It would be appreciated if this information could be provided to AHPRA by **12 September 2016**.

Updates to your Office

As a registered Notifier, the Office of the Coroner will receive regular updates on the status of AHPRA's investigations.

We will also write to your Office at the conclusion of the investigation, once the Board has decided what regulatory action, if any, is required in relation to the treatment of Mr Appelman by the nominated registered health practitioners under investigation. At that time, we will tell you as much as possible about the Board's decisions and its reasons. There are some outcomes that are not able to be disclosed to parties under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), other than to the practitioner and their nominated representatives.

If you require any further information at this stage, please let us know. Otherwise AHPRA will provide a routine update to your Office in November 2016.

If you have any queries, please contact Elizabeth Hutchings (Dr Chi Tang 00329637) and/or Amy Lipow (Dr Peter Stiebel 00329636) on 03 8708 9284 or vic-notifications@ahpra.gov.au quoting the relevant reference number/s.

Yours sincerely



Anoushka Bondar

Manager Notifications

Reference Numbers:

- 00329637 – Dr Chi Tang – Ms Elizabeth Hutchings
- 00329636 – Dr Peter Stiebel – Ms Amy Lipow

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