



DEAN

Professor Edward (Ted) Shipton  
MBCHB, DA, MMED, FFA, FRCA,  
FANZCA, FPPMANZCA, MD

August 26, 2015

Mr Josh Munro  
Coroners Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Mr Munro

**Re: Investigation into the death of Margaret E McCall**  
**Court ref: COR2012 004064**

I write in response to your letter of 31 July last.

The Faculty of Pain Medicine has noted the Coroner's Recommendation arising out of the above matter, that:

To increase the safety of patients who receive a low-dose ketamine infusion, the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Faculty of Pain Medicine develop evidence based information regarding best practice in low-dose ketamine infusion for pain management. This information should specifically include the appropriate assessment, follow-up care, response to the likelihood of re-emerging pain and communication with primary practitioners.

The Coroner noted, on page 15 of the Finding:

There are no evidence based guidelines or consensus for the safe administration of low dose ketamine that provide quality practice regarding the assessment, administration and management of ketamine infusion, including care in the months after the infusion.

In effect the Coroner has charged the Faculty to articulate guidelines regarding the use of low dose ketamine in pain management, acknowledged as a domain where none currently exist. The Faculty is well prepared to undertake this exercise under the process outlined in ANZCA professional document A01 Policy for the Development and Review of Professional Documents  
<http://www.anzca.edu.au/resources/professional-documents/pdfs/A01-2011.pdf>.

The first step in this process will be consideration of the matter by the Faculty Board at its next meeting on 1 October 2015, when the scope of the guideline and creation of a working group will be discussed. Given the complexity of this important task, which to be thorough may extend beyond the Coroner's formal Recommendation, it is likely that the process will take at least six months.

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FACULTY OF PAIN MEDICINE  
AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND  
COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS

ABN 82 055 042 852

*Advancing pain medicine:  
Improving patient care*



The process will be coordinated by Professor Milton Cohen, the Faculty's Director of Professional Affairs, to whom further enquiries should be directed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E Shipton". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

**Edward (Ted) Shipton**  
Dean