



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

27 June 2016

Attn: Josh Munro – Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court Of Victoria
65 Kavanagh St
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006



Dear Mr Munro

Investigation into the death of Frank E Frod – COR 2012 004080

I acknowledge receipt of your letter on 11 April 2016, which was dated 6 April 2016, enclosing a copy of the Finding without Inquest into the death of Mr Frank Frod.

I note your recommendation, pursuant to section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008 (Vic)* (the Act) that the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency review the treatment provided (and particularly drugs prescribed) to Mr Frod at Frankston Healthcare and consider whether this treatment raises any issues relating to the conduct of the practitioner's involved. 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.

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 2 June 2016, the Board assessed the Coroner's Finding into Death without Inquest relating to the deceased Mr Frank Edward Frod. The Board decided to take the following action:

1. Commence an investigation into Dr Robert Weiss' treatment of Mr Frod.
2. Commence an investigation into Dr Andrew Taylor's treatment of Mr Frod.
3. Take no further action in relation to Dr Emad Tadros for the following reasons:
 - a. it considered Dr Tadros' management and prescribing of benzodiazepines for Mr Frank Frod was reasonable in the circumstances
 - b. it acknowledged that Dr Tadros ultimately refused to prescribe for him and referred him to his treating practitioner
 - c. it noted the changes Dr Tadros made to his practice as a result of this incident, and therefore
 - d. it decided that no regulatory action is required.

I note that 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 and our updates to your Office

Ms Elizabeth Hutchings has been appointed to assist the Board and investigate this matter.

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

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 Frood 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. Note there are some outcomes that are not disclosable 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 September 2016.

If you have any queries, please contact Elizabeth Hutchings on 03 8708 9284 or vic-notifications@ahpra.gov.au quoting the reference number below.

Yours sincerely



Anoushka Bondar
Manager Notifications

Reference Numbers: 00326192, 00326231 and 00326232

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