

22 October 2015

Ms Melissa Purdy
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank
Victoria 3006

Dear Ms Purdy,

Re: Court ref: 2012 004193 – death of Terri Anne Woolley-Peresso

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (“the College”) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 13 July 2015 regarding the death of **Terri Anne Woolley-Peresso** (Court ref: 2012 004193).

Pursuant to Section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008, the College responds to the recommendation as follows:

Recommendation

“That the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners review the circumstances of Ms Woolley-Peresso’s death and consider how it can better educate doctors about the benefits of contacting state based drugs and poisons regulators before prescribing potentially dangerous or addictive drugs.”

The RACGP is committed to addressing the issues of drug abuse and management in general practice and supporting GPs to ensure sound prescribing practices. The RACGP recognises that Coroner investigations such as these, highlight the seriousness of diverting from regulation and available guidance.

The RACGP thanks the Coroner for acknowledging the development of the clinical guideline: *Prescribing Drugs of Dependence in General Practice, Part A: Clinical Governance Framework*.

The RACGP has subsequently released *Part B: Benzodiazepines*. Development of Part C to the Guide: *Opioid Prescribing* has commenced, with resources to be made available in late 2016.

The RACGP will issue a reminder to GPs of their medical, legal and ethical obligation in prescribing opioids. We will achieve this by placing a relevant item in the RACGP Victorian Faculty Newsletter, including a direct link to Drugs & Poisons Regulation in Victoria:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/dpcs/index.htm>



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We will also disseminate this item to Victorian RACGP members of our Drug and Alcohol Committee and National Faculty of Specific Interest - Addiction Medicine Network.

Should you or the Coroner wish to discuss this further, please contact the RACGP Victoria Faculty on (03) 8699 0468.

Yours sincerely

A/Prof Morton Rawlin
Chair, Victoria Faculty