



Secretary

Department of Health & Human Services

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Bree Dyson
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006



Dear Ms Dyson

Investigation into the death of Kelly E Hall (Court ref: COR 2013 002123)

I am writing in response to your letter of 22 April 2016 relating to Coroner Rosemary Carlin's recommendation to the Department of Health and Human Services in her finding into the death without inquest of Ms Kelly Hall.

The department's response to the Coroner's recommendation follows:

Recommendation 1:

I recommend that the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services take the national lead in immediately implementing a Real Time Prescription Monitoring system in Victoria to tackle the ever-increasing toll of pharmaceutical drug related deaths in this state.

The department's response:

The Coroner's recommendation will be implemented.

The Victorian Government has now committed \$29.5 million over four years in the 2016-17 State Budget to implement a real-time prescription monitoring system in Victoria, as well as workforce packages to support doctors and pharmacists with the implementation of this system.

The department has noted with great concern the data provided by the Coroners Prevention Unit revealing the increasing number of pharmaceutical drug-related deaths in Victoria. The department also acknowledges the more than 20 findings since 2012 that have called for the implementation of a real-time prescription monitoring system in Victoria. We recognise that strong action must be taken to curb the growing problem of pharmaceutical drug misuse in Victoria.

While a national system is best, we agree with the Coroner that Victoria can no longer afford to wait for the other states and territories, and we are now moving ahead with implementation of a Victorian-based system. We will continue to push hard for all other states and territories to follow our lead in implementing this critical initiative.

If you require further information, please contact Matthew McCrone, Director, Medicinal Cannabis and Real-Time Prescription Monitoring Taskforces on 9096 5066 or via email matthew.mccrone@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely


Kym Peake
Secretary
30/6/2016