

20 May 2016

Ms Cheryl Vella
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank
Victoria 3006

Dear Ms Vella,

Re: Court ref: 2013 002276 – death of Suzanne Berg

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (“the College”) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 2 June 2015 regarding the death of Suzanne Berg (Court ref: 2013 002276).

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 consider including in its Standards for General Practices, a section providing guidance to general practitioners about continuity of care and patient follow-up specific to patients with mental health issues who are prescribed and receiving regular psychoactive medications.

The RACGP Standards for General Practices (the Standards) are a template for quality care and risk management in Australia general practice.

The RACGP is developing the next edition of the Standards (5th edition) which will be launched in October 2017. The first draft was launched for consultation from 15 February 2016 to 1 April 2016. The purpose of the RACGP’s *Standards for general practices* (5th edition) is to protect patients from harm and to improve the quality and safety of health services. They also provide practices with a way of identifying and addressing any gaps they have in their systems and processes.

In June 2016, the second draft of the 5th edition Standards will be released for another round of consultation. In addition, the draft Standards will be piloted in 100 practices across Australia. The Coroner’s recommendation has been passed on to the RACGP Expert Committee – Standards for General Practices for consideration during this consultation phase.

Yours sincerely



A/Prof Morton Rawlin
RACGP Victoria – Faculty Chair