

28 April 2016

Coroner Rosemary Carlin  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
Southbank Victoria 3006



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Victoria 3181 Australia  
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**NURSING SERVICES**  
**CHIEF NURSING OFFICER**  
Janet Weir-Phyland  
East Block, Level 2  
55 Commercial Road  
Melbourne Vic 3004

Dear Coroner Carlin

**Court Reference: COR 2013 004813**

I refer to your recommendation arising from the Finding into Death without Inquest of the late Mrs Susan Ruth Lovell.

Thank you for your recommendation in relation to the use of Proximate or similar sensor alert devices. I have considered this issue along with the balance that needs to be made against resourcing constraints. Alfred Health responds as follows:

**Recommendation:**

That Alfred Health amends its policies to require the use of Proximate or similar sensor alert devices in conjunction with visual observations by a Constant Patient Observer or other nursing staff when a patient is assessed as a very high falls risk.

**Alfred Health Response:**

Alfred Health will update the Falls: Prevention, Assessment & Management Guideline to include the following:

*“Consideration should be given to the use of a sensor alarm in conjunction with a Constant Patient Observer being in place, particularly where the Constant Patient Observer is observing more than one patient.”*

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet Weir-Phyland'.

**Janet Weir-Phyland**  
Executive Director Nursing Services, Chief Nursing Officer  
Alfred Health