

3 June 2016

Ms Freda Vilella
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank
Victoria 3006

Dear Ms Vilella,

Re: Court ref: 2013 004813 – death of Susan R Lovell

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 4 March 2016 regarding the death of Susan R Lovell (Court ref: 2013 004813).

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

Recommendation 1

That the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners considers circulating educational material to its members regarding best practice as to management of skin lesions, including after excision.

As mentioned by Coroner Carlin in her finding, members will be referred to the July 2012 Vol 41 (8) issue of *Australian Family Physician*, which included articles on melanoma management, skin checks, nonmelanoma treatment and dermatoscopy in routine practice. Issues are published on the RACGP web-site: <http://www.racgp.org.au/afp/2012/july/>. This will be promoted in the next RACGP Victorian newsletter.

Recommendation 2

That the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners consider the need to establish guidelines as to best practice when a skin lesion has been excised, even after it has been clinically diagnosed as benign.

The finding will be referred to the RACGP Expert Committee – Quality Care. The REC-QC strives to champion and facilitate high standard Australian general practice, and position general practice to make a substantial contribution to the emerging quality initiatives within the Australian health system. One of the roles of the Committee is to develop and maintain high quality, evidence based tools and resources to improve delivery of care in general practice and to support preventive care.



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Recommendation 3

That the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners continue to educate its members as to the importance of comprehensive contemporaneous notes.

The RACGP initiated the development of *Quality health records in Australian primary healthcare* which describes seven essential attributes of quality health records. The RACGP will remind members of this resource with specific reference to the following attributes:

Completeness: Sufficient information collected in a consultation is then recorded in the health record, to reliably serve a range of purposes.

Accuracy: The record of a consultation in the patient health record correctly reflects the information captured in that consultation

Timeliness: Information captured in a consultation is recorded in the patient health record at the time of the consultation or as soon as practicable afterwards, and information from other sources (e.g. the results of a diagnostic procedure) are incorporated in the patient health record within a reasonable timeframe.

We will achieve this by placing a relevant item in the next RACGP Victorian newsletter.

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

Yours sincerely

Assoc Prof Morton Rawlin
Chair - RACGP Victoria