



No To Violence

Male Family Violence
Prevention Association

ABN 98365655697

ntv.org.au

Men's
Referral
Service

1300 766 491

mrs.org.au



10 July 2016

Ms Angela Liantzakis
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

Court reference: COR 2013 005996

Dear Ms Liantzakis

INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF ROSS M CAMPBELL

I am writing in response to your letter dated the 6th of April 2016 address to myself as the Chairperson of No To Violence, pertaining to the finding without inquest and the recommendations made by the coroner in relation to the investigation in to the death of Ross M Campbell.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family of Mr Campbell for their loss. No To Violence recognizes the devastating impacts family violence has on all members of the community and seeks to address this in our work.

Background

No To Violence is the Victorian state-wide peak body of organisations and individuals that work with men to end their violence and abuse against family members. No To Violence members come from a wide range of professional and community backgrounds and work in a range of settings including government, community-based settings and private practice. No To Violence is the only peak body in Australia that focuses on engaging men in tertiary, secondary and primary prevention of gender-based violence.

In addition to being a peak body, No To Violence provides the Men's Referral Service, an anonymous telephone counselling and referral service to encourage men to take responsibility for their use of family violence. It also operates the telephone-based after hours service responding to police referrals of male users of family violence. Furthermore, NTV provides foundational training for male family violence workers, through (in collaboration with Swinburne University of Technology) the Graduate Certificate in Social Science (Male Family Violence), as well as ongoing professional and sector development.



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Response to the recommendations

I wish to advise that No To Violence is treating the implementation of the Coroner's recommendations as a matter of priority. Work has already begun to address the areas identified in the Coroner's recommendations and other areas identified through our own ongoing quality improvement processes. We feel that the aim of the improvements and adoption of the recommendations will be to increase the safety of everyone involved in the work we do to prevent violence against women and children. Our response specifically to each of the recommendations is as follows:

1. That No to Violence provide an updated minimum standards for Men's Behavioural Change Programs to incorporate a requirements for suicide risk assessment upon eligibility and throughout Men's Behavioural Change Programs.

No To Violence acknowledge that the minimum standards are in need of being updated. The Board of No To Violence moved a motion in April 2016 to establish an expert panel to review and revise the minimum standards. Negotiations have commenced with the Department of Health and Human Services to support and to assist with funding for the updated minimum standards. No To Violence will ensure that the recommendation from the Coroner is included in the brief provided to the expert panel for inclusion in the revised standards.

2. That the Victorian Government establish a state wide accreditation process for Men's Behavioural Change Programs in order to ensure that all the programs meet an updated minimum standards as published by No to Violence.

Organisations who provide government funded Men's Behavioural Change Programs are required to be members of No To Violence and self-regulate their adherence to the minimum standards. No To Violence acknowledge the current system of self-regulation allows for variations in the quality of service being provided through Men's Behavioural Change Programs. No to Violence have initiated conversations with the Department of Health and Human Services to enhance the role No To Violence plays as a peak body including the exploration of accreditation of programs and registration of professionals working the Men's Behavioural Change Sector. As with the first recommendation this will require additional resources and funding to achieve this additional service.

In our closing response, I wish reiterate our condolences to the family of Mr Campbell. No To Violence is committed to supporting men to change their behaviour in order to promote the safety of all people involved including the person using violence. We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Coroner's recommendations and the learning we can take from this sad occurrence.

We would be happy to provide any further information required in relation to this response as required. Please do not hesitate to contact our CEO Jacqui Watt at the same address or via email on JacquiW@ntv.org.au or telephone (03) 94874500.

Yours sincerely

James McCarthy
Chairperson - No to Violence