



Mr Samuel Barty
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

Dear Mr Barty

I am writing in response to your amended letter of 10 November 2017 (court reference COR 2014 006263) regarding Coroner Caitlin English's finding without an inquest into the death of Beverley Joy Leggett. This included a recommendation to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) under the *Coroners Act 2008* (Victoria).

Coroner's recommendation

"I recommend the NHMRC request the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care expedite its review of current VTE guidelines to provide relevant, evidence based, best practice guidelines for Australian clinicians in 2016, with a particular focus on consideration of the risks versus the benefits of thromboprophylaxis for this group of patients, taking into account complications after surgery related to the use of routine anticoagulants."

NHMRC's response: the Coroner's recommendation is unable to be implemented

I have been advised by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) that it intends to develop a venous thromboembolism clinical care standard as part of its 2016-19 work plan. In a letter to me dated 6 March 2017 Professor Debra Picone, the Commission's Chief Executive Officer, advised that the standards have been initiated as "VTE continues to be an ongoing patient safety and quality issue," and as a response to the absence of current Australian guidelines.

NHMRC has been advised that a review of current VTE resources will be incorporated into the development of the clinical standards; therefore any questions on the status of this work should be directed to the Commission.

For further information please contact Geraint Duggan, Director - Clinical Guidelines on (03) 8866 0403 or geraintduggan@nhmrc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Professor Anne Kelso AO
Chief Executive Officer

16 March 2017