

18 April 2016

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

Dear Ms Vilella,

Re: Court ref: 2014 000477 – death of Benjamin Hodgson

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 2 February 2016 regarding the death of **Benjamin Hodgson** (Court ref: 2014 000477).

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

Recommendation 1

“The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners provides a clinical update to GPs to highlight the importance of recognizing hyperglycaemia and ketosis in adult diabetic patients, as an uncommon but potentially serious complication of type 2 diabetes, or indication of newly recognized adult-onset type 1 diabetes.”

The RACGP released a clinical pearl - *Recognising the signs of DKA in type 2 diabetes patients* on the 12 February 2016 via *In Practice* newsletter. The link is <http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/news/inpractice/12-02-2016/>

Recommendation 2

“The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners advise GPs that although uncommon in adults and clinically subtle in its earliest states, involving diabetic ketoacidosis may produce a dangerous metabolic decompensation and require escalation of care to a hospital setting for further assessment and management.”

The RACGP have met with the Australian Diabetes Society on the issue of diagnosis of glycaemic emergencies in the community. It was agreed that more needs to be done to increase awareness of diagnosis diabetic emergencies. We have agreed to develop a joint statement outlining key testing at diagnosis of diabetes in both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. It is expected that this will be supplemented with information outlining the role of GPs. It is expected that the position statement will be released mid to late 2016.



Healthy Profession.
Healthy Australia.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. C. Rawlin'.

Assoc Prof Morton Rawlin
Chair, Victoria Faculty