



## Department of Health and Human Services

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Colleen Bebbington  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

### Investigation into the death of Leigh T Aiple (Court Reference COR 2014 002427)

Dear Ms Bebbington

Thank you for your letter providing me with a copy of Coroner Caitlin English's findings without inquest into the death of Leigh T Aiple. I was saddened to hear of the passing of Mr Aiple, and am writing in response to the Coroner's recommendations.

I note that the findings included a recommendation to our department:

Recommendation 147

*The Chief Health Officer consider the merits of taking a similar approach to the Department of Health and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to publish a Health Advisory along the same lines as referred to above. This will serve to increase the breadth of material available to advise Victorian consumers of medical services overseas to be aware that the quality of medical care provided in other countries may not be of the same standard as that provided in Australia.*

Medical tourism is associated with real health risks, and it is important that Victorians have access to good information about the hazards and potential dangers of travelling to another country in order to seek medical treatment of any kind.

The Coroner's recommendation will be implemented through a notification to the Victorian public providing advice about these potential dangers, and that standards of medical care may not be as high as for treatment provided within Victoria.

Yours sincerely

**Professor Charles Guest**

Chief Health Officer  
Regulation, Health Protection and Emergency Management

22 / 11 2018

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