

IN THE CORONERS COURT
OF VICTORIA
AT MELBOURNE

Court Reference: COR 2012 2330

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

Form 37 Rule 60(1)

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

Inquest into the Death of: JACINTA O'BRIEN

Delivered On: 21 January 2014

Delivered At: Coroners Court of Victoria,
222 Exhibition Street,
Melbourne

Hearing Date: 21 January 2014

Findings of: IAIN TRELOAR WEST, DEPUTY STATE CORONER

Police Coronial Support Unit Sergeant Sharon Wade

I, IAIN TRELOAR WEST, Deputy State Coroner having investigated the death of JACINTA O'BRIEN

AND having held an inquest in relation to this death on 21 January 2014

at MELBOURNE

find that the identity of the deceased was JACINTA O'BRIEN

born on 27 July 1966

and the death occurred on 20 June 2012

at Austin Hospital, Studley Road, Heidelberg 3084

from:

1 (a) METASTATIC OVARIAN CARCINOMA

in the following circumstances:

1. Jacinta O'Brien was aged 45 years at the time of her death and due to intellectual disability, was in the care of the Department of Human Services, residing at 13 Tivey Street, Reservoir. She suffered from Lennox Gastaut Syndrome (intellectual disability) and was unable to communicate verbally. In addition, Ms O'Brien had a history of dysphagia and seizures.
2. On the 10 June 2012, Ms O'Brien was admitted to Austin Hospital from her care facility with a two week history of abdominal swelling and peripheral oedema, and some possible abdominal pain. She also had a history of diarrhoea and vomiting.
3. Investigations revealed a mass in her ovary that subsequent testing confirmed to be ovarian cancer. On the 18 June 2012, Ms O'Brien developed aspiration pneumonia. On the 20 June, Ms O'Brien, in the presence of a staff member, suddenly stopped breathing and became cyanosed. Oxygen was administered, however Ms O'Brien was confirmed deceased at 9.15 am. It was not clear what caused her sudden death.
4. On the 3 July 2012, an autopsy examination was performed by Dr Michael Bourke, Senior Pathologist with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine. Dr Burke performed an external and internal examination of Ms O'Brien at the mortuary, reviewed the medical deposition and clinical notes, the post mortem CT scan and provided a written report of his findings. Dr Burke reported that in all the circumstances a reasonable cause of death appeared to be metastatic ovarian carcinoma.
5. I find that Jacinta O'Brien died of natural causes with the cause of death being metastatic ovarian carcinoma. I am further satisfied that her care whilst a client of the Department of

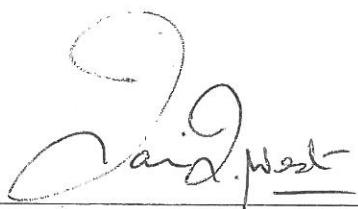
Human Services and whilst a patient at Austin Hospital, was within the parameters of reasonable health care management.

I direct that a copy of this finding be provided to the following:

Department of Human Services

Medical Director, Austin Hospital

Signature:



IAIN WEST
DEPUTY STATE CORONER
Date: **21 January 2014**

