

IN THE CORONERS COURT  
OF VICTORIA  
AT MELBOURNE

Court Reference: COR 2014 4009

**FINDING INTO DEATH WITHOUT INQUEST**

*Form 38 Rule 60(2)*

*Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008*

I, PETER WHITE, Coroner having investigated the death of JASON MICHAEL PAUL  
without holding an inquest:

find that the identity of the deceased was JASON MICHAEL PAUL

born on 30 January 1971

and the death occurred on 7 August 2014

at the Colac Area Health, 2-28 Connor Street, Colac, Victoria

**from:**

1 (a) PNEUMONIA

1 (b) SEVERE EPILEPSY

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

RENAL CELL CANCER

**Pursuant to section 67(1) of the *Coroners Act 2008* I make findings with respect to the following circumstances:**

1. Jason Paul was a 43 year old man who resided in Colanda Residential Services, a Department of Human Services run facility, in Colac. He had resided in the Martin Unit of Colanda since 1977. Mr Paul had tuberous sclerosis and cerebral palsy with spastic quadriplegia, choroathetosis and kyphosoliosis. He had epilepsy and was blind and needed high level care.
2. In the twelve months leading up to his death, he had multiple consultations with his doctor and admissions to Colac Area Health and Geelong Hospital for treatment of his progressive renal failure.
3. On 27 July 2014, Mr Paul was admitted to Colac Hospital following a number of epileptic seizures. He was later diagnosed with pneumonia. In consultation with his family, the decision was made to institute palliative care measures. He passed away on 7 August 2014.

4. As Mr Paul was residing in a Department of Human Services run facility, his death was reported to the Coroners Court of Victoria.
5. Pathologist Paul Bedford of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine performed a post mortem medical inspection. Dr Bedford provided me with a report of his findings. Dr Bedford concluded that the cause of Mr Paul's death was 1(a) pneumonia and 1(b) severe epilepsy with the contributing factor of renal cell cancer. He was of the opinion that Mr Paul's death was due to natural causes. I adopt Dr Bedford's findings in relation to the cause of death.
6. As part of my investigation, Leading Senior Constable Peter Clayton provided me with a coronial brief of evidence (the brief). The brief contains statements from the Unit Manager, Acting Unit Manager and Operation Manager of Colanda Residential Services along with Mr Paul's doctor. It also contains medical records. I have relied on the totality of the evidence before me in setting out this finding.
7. I am satisfied that Mr Paul died as a result of natural causes. I am satisfied that he received appropriate care at Colanda Residential Services.

Pursuant to section 73(1B) of the Coroners Act 2008, I direct that this finding be published on the internet.

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

Mr Paul's family

The Department of Health and Human Services

Leading Senior Constable Peter Clayton

Signature:



**PETER WHITE**  
CORONER  
Date: 6 July 2016

