

IN THE CORONERS COURT
OF VICTORIA
AT MELBOURNE

Court Reference: COR 2011 2198

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

Form 37 Rule 60(1)
Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

Inquest into the Death of: MATTHEW ROBERT FRANDBSEN

Delivered On: 12 June 2013

Delivered At: Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street
Melbourne 3000

Hearing Dates: 25 March 2013

Findings of: JOHN OLLE, CORONER

Police Coronial Support Unit Leading Senior Constable Tracey Ramsey

I, JOHN OLLE, Coroner having investigated the death of MATTHEW ROBERT FRANDBSEN

AND having held an inquest in relation to this death on 25 March 2013

at MELBOURNE

find that the identity of the deceased was MATTHEW ROBERT FRANDBSEN

9 February 1970

and the death occurred 16 June 2011

at Unit 8, 355 Bayswater Road, Bayswater North 3153

from:

1 (a) MIXED DRUG TOXICITY (ETHANOL, AMITRIPTYLINE, METHADONE,
MORPHINE, DIAZEPAM, TEMAZEPAM AND OXAZEPAM)

In the following circumstances:

1. Matthew Frandsen was aged 41 years at the time of his death. He was a long term user of illicit drugs and alcohol.
2. On 16 June 2011, Matthew had been drinking heavily in company with Diane Crawford. Matthew and Diane had previously been in a relationship. Matthew was sighted in and out of Diane's premises throughout the course of the day. He was later seen to be staggering past the flats.
3. Vehicles stopped to avoid striking Matthew as he crossed Canterbury Road.
4. He fell from his pushbike and police were called.
5. Police attended and found Matthew sitting on the footpath.
6. Though initially unresponsive, Matthew subsequently informed police that he'd been drinking heavily. He smelt strongly of alcohol. Matthew identified himself and said his friend Diane may look after him. He walked to the rear of the divisional van and was conveyed to Diane's flat.

"At about 6.10pm, police spoke with Diane Crawford at Flat 8 and confirmed she knew Matthew and advised her of his situation. Diane initially seemed hesitant to have Matthew remain with her but after learning he would be lodged at Ringwood cells she decided to have him stay there. Matthew climbed from the divisional van and entered

the flat. Diane was advised by the members not to allow Matthew to consume any more alcohol.

Matthew stated he was alright and thanked the police members for taking him home. The police members then departed this location to continue their patrol duties.

At about 10.14pm, the same police members were allocated a task to re-attend the address of Flat 8 regarding a deceased male at that location. This task originated from the Ambulance Service. Upon arrival three ambulance were already in attendance and advised police that Matthew was now deceased. Those occupiers present at that time in Flat 8 were Diane Crawford and Heidi Merton from Flat 7. Other police then arrived and the premises secured.”¹

7. It appears Matthew entered the flat at around 6.10pm. Diane placed a pillow under his head and he appeared to be asleep. At some stage, Matthew obtained prescription medication, which was subsequently found by police investigators.
8. Diane stated that after placing a pillow under his head, she went to his flat to get cigarettes. She returned to the flat and spoke to Matthew, however, he did not reply. Diane noticed his lips were purple and he looked pale and she performed CPR. He commenced breathing and she continued to watch television believing him to be asleep. She later noticed “something wrong”, alerted the neighbour and performed CPR until the ambulance arrived.
9. Diane later explained that Matthew had earlier taken Endep and would normally take five tablets.

“Examination of Matthew’s flat 4 revealed a collection of prescription medication. Also of note were items that appeared to have been recently used. These items consisted of three syringes, swabs, spoons, water and a gas lighter trigger device. One of these syringes was uncapped and had been used (fully plunged) with a very small quantity of clear liquid remaining inside the tube. Immediately next to this syringe was a spoon with bum marks on the bottom and a small quantity of white powder residue remaining on the spoon.”²

¹ Police Summary rendered evidence.

² Paragraph 19 Summary of coronial investigator.

Post Mortem Medical Examination

10. On 22 June 2011, Dr Matthew Lynch, Forensic Pathologist of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, performed an autopsy on the body of Matthew Frandsen. Dr Lynch found the cause of death to be mixed drug toxicity (ethanol, amitriptyline, methadone, morphine, diazepam, temazepam and oxazepam).

11. Dr Lynch commented:

“The cause of death in Mr Matthew Frandsen is mixed drug toxicity. Toxicological analysis detected ethanol, methadone, morphine, amitriptyline (and its metabolite nortriptyline), the benzodiazepines diazepam (and its metabolite nordiazepam), temazepam and oxazepam. Morphine is the principal metabolite of heroin. The heroin specific metabolite 6-mono-acetyl-morphine was not detected.

According to the police report Mr Frandsen was discovered deceased at an address having been noted to be intoxicated the previous evening. At autopsy there was evidence of a recent venepuncture mark at the left cubital fossa. Examination of the liver revealed evidence of chronic hepatitis with features suggestive of chronic hepatitis C.”³

Finding

I find the cause of death of Matthew Frandsen to be mixed drug toxicity.

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

Mr Robert Frandsen, next of kin

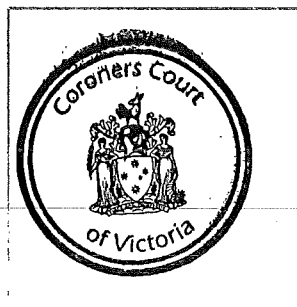
Detective Leading Senior Constable C. Wickham, Whitehorse CIU

Signature:

JOHN OLLE
CORONER

Date:

12/6/2013



³ Comments section Dr Lynch's report.