

IN THE CORONERS COURT
OF VICTORIA
AT MELBOURNE

Court Reference: 3775/2011

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

Form 37 Rule 60(1)

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

Inquest into the Death of: PATRICIA PARKES

Delivered On: 4 June 2012

Delivered At: Melbourne

Hearing Dates: 4 June 2012

Findings of: CORONER K. M. W. PARKINSON

Police Coronial Support Unit: Leading Senior Constable Tania Cristiano

I, K. M. W. PARKINSON, Coroner having investigated the death of PATRICIA PARKES

AND having held an inquest in relation to this death on 4 June 2012

at Melbourne

find that the identity of the deceased was PATRICIA GLADYS PARKES

born on 14 April 1949

and the death occurred on 6 October 2011

at Tattersalls Palliative Care Unit, 125 Golf Links Road, Frankston, Victoria 3199

from:

1a. METASTATIC BREAST CANCER

in the following circumstances:

1. Ms Patricia ("Patsy") Parkes was born on 14 April 1949. She was 62 years old at the time of her death. Patsy resided in residential care since age nine years with extensive support being provided by her family. She initially resided at Janefield and more recently has resided in a community care unit provided by Focus Support Services (Kindalin) at Red Hill.
2. Patsy was a person in care as defined by Section 3(d) of the *Coroners Act 2008* ("the Act") and accordingly her death was reportable pursuant to Section 4(c) of that Act. An inquest into her death is mandatory pursuant to Section 52(2)(b) of the Act.
3. Patsy had a medical history of autism and severe intellectual disability. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004. Her condition deteriorated becoming metastatic in August 2011. At the instance of her family and her carers, Patsy was provided with caring and appropriate treatment during her lifetime and during her illness. She was provided with medical and nursing support at home and palliative care. She was admitted to the palliative care unit on 30 September 2011. Patsy died on 6 October 2011.
4. An inspection and report was undertaken by Dr Melissa Baker, Forensic Pathologist with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine. Dr Baker states that a reasonable medical cause of death was 1a. Metastatic Breast Cancer.
5. I am satisfied that Patsy's care and management was reasonable and appropriate.

6. I find that Ms Patricia ("Patsy") Parkes died on 6 October 2011 at Tattersalls Palliative Care Unit, 125 Golf Links Road, Frankston from natural causes and that the cause of her death was Metastatic Breast Cancer.

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

The family of Ms Patricia Parkes

Manager, Focus Support Services, Red Hill

Interested parties.

Signature:



K. M. W. PARKINSON
CORONER
5 June 2012

