



Department of Justice & Regulation

Secretary

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18 MAR 2015

Mr Josh Munroe
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Mr Munroe

Response to Recommendations

I write to provide you with my final response to:

- Recommendation Three from the Inquest into the death of Samir Ograzden (COR 2008 2028)
- Recommendation Two from the Inquest into the death of Gong Ling Tang (COR 2010 1790)
- Recommendation Three from the Inquest into the death of Craig Douglas (COR 2011 1554)

that I provide an institutionally independent, legally trained person to observe the interview process with Victoria Police officers who are involved in police contact deaths.

After considering these recommendations, I have decided not to adopt them.

The Coroner, as an independent judicial officer, has broad discretionary powers to investigate deaths including police contact deaths. Further, the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) has broad discretionary powers and resources to oversight police conduct and maintains a standing 'own motion' inquiry to monitor and review critical incidents involving death or serious injury as a result of police contact.

The respective statutory powers and functions of the Coroner and IBAC provide a framework for an impartial and independent investigation following a police contact death and extend to measures to address perceptions of collusion or bias, including the discretion to attend interviews conducted as part of a coronial investigation. In this context, it is both unnecessary and, given my lack of statutory power and functions in this area, unfeasible for me to perform the recommended role.

I understand that Victoria Police is preparing a response to:

- Recommendation One from the Inquest into the death of Gong Ling Tang (COR 2010 1790) and
 - Recommendation Two from the Inquest into the death of Craig Douglas (COR 2011 1554)
- that investigators should audio and visually record a 'free narrative' account of the police interview associated with 'police contact' deaths as soon as possible after the incident has occurred.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Greg Wilson
Secretary