



VICTORIA POLICE



**Chief Commissioner's Office**

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Judge Iain Gray  
Coroner's Court Victoria  
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

**Subject:** Michael ATAKELT  
**Case Number:** COR 2011 002479  
**Date of Recommendations:** 28 August 2014

Judge Gray,

I write in response to recommendation 1 arising from your findings in the inquest into the death of Michael Atakelt.

**Recommendation:** I recommend to Victoria Police that it consider implementation of the proposal set out in paragraph 179 above (which is in three parts). Appendix A of Askalu's submission set out: "Example of Proposed Missing Persons Inquiry Reponse Record". I attach that to these findings and recommend that Victoria Police consider implementation of a system / process designed to achieve the same process.

**Response:** An alternative will be implemented.

Victoria Police supports the recommendation for information to be made available to persons who attend a police station to report or seek to report or query whether to report a person missing, and a confirmation be provided to a person who reports a person missing. However, Victoria Police does not support the notion of documentary receipting when a missing person report is not made due to not satisfying the criteria as per the Victoria Police Manual Policy.

This recommendation has been forwarded the Crime Command to work with the Priority Communities Division to action this recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

Lucinda Nolan  
Deputy Commissioner Regional Operations

22/2/15



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**Subject:** Michael ATAKELT  
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**Date of Recommendations:** 28 August 2014

Judge Gray,

I write in response to recommendation 2 arising from your findings in the inquest into the death of Michael Atakelt.

**Recommendation:** That Victoria Police provide training and information to members on cultural factors which might impact upon the method of delivering a death message and the importance of seeking accurate cultural guidance wherever possible prior to the delivery of the death message.

**Response:** This recommendation has been implemented.

Under the current training regime, police recruits and PSO's:

- Undertake a "Multicultural Communities and Policing" session. They are provided with a copy of the ANZPAA reference book "*A Practical Reference to Religious and Spiritual Diversity for Operational Police 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*". The guide contains a specific section on "*Death, Bereavement and Mourning*" detailing the different cultural factors that may impact during the notification of investigation of a death.
- Are provided with a ready reckoner card with précis of the material in the ANZPAA guide to carry with them on patrol.
- Attend a session delivered by the Senior Police Chaplin on 'death notification' which includes the consideration of diversity.

To address the needs of the wider organisation the Priority Communities Division is developing the "Cultural, Community & Diversity Education Strategy". This strategy will be utilised across a number of training fora e.g. Foundation Training, Promotions Programs and Detective Training; to address the subtle differences and messages required for different cultures and their use of language.

Yours sincerely,

Lucinda Nolan  
Deputy Commissioner Regional Operations

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**Subject:** Michael ATAKELT  
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**Date of Recommendations:** 28 August 2014

Judge Gray,

I write in response to recommendation 3 arising from your findings in the inquest into the death of Michael Atakelt.

**Recommendation:** That Victoria Police review the language used to categorise and describe deaths to ensure that the terms used are clear and are likely to be understood by members of the family and / or community of the deceased person.

**Response:** This recommendation will be implemented.

There are a number of avenues or training opportunities across Victoria Police Commands where this recommendation could be incorporated into the respective course curriculums. This recommendation has been forwarded to the People Development Command to undertake this recommendation and assess the relevant options to address the use of language used to categorise and describe deaths.

Yours sincerely,

Lucinda Nolan  
Deputy Commissioner Regional Operations

22/2/15