



Department of Health

Secretary

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12 NOV 2012

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Ms Kate Doherty
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000



Dear Ms Doherty

Court Reference: COR 2009 004132

I am writing in response to your letter dated 13 September 2012 in relation to Coroner Audrey Jamieson's recommendations made following the investigation into the death of [REDACTED]

The recommendation relevant to the Department of Health was:

To Increase the safety of patients who are also registered sex offenders, the Department of Health Mental Health, Drugs and Regions Division and Department of Justice Community Corrections Services, review their application of the 2008 protocol between the Department of Health Mental Health Drugs and Regions Division and Community Corrections Services. Particular emphasis should be given to addressing any perceived barriers to communication between services and a patient's right to privacy.

The Coroner's recommendation will be implemented. The Mental Health Drugs and Regions division undertook a revision of the protocol during 2012. This included consideration of the need for good communication between mental health and community corrections services.

The protocol refers to the guideline *Working with the Suicidal Person*, and notes the importance of sharing information and endeavouring to follow up after a suicide attempt. The revised version will be jointly signed by senior officers in the Department of Health and Community Corrections, and will be made available on the relevant websites. The updated version will be distributed to services with accompanying comment regarding the need to communicate relevant clinical information.

The Chief Psychiatrist will also circulate the recommendation to all authorised psychiatrists.

Yours sincerely



Dr Pradeep Philip
Secretary