



21 January 2013



Ms Esther Reeves
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 11 222 Exhibition Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Court Reference: COR 2009 005807

Dear Ms Reeves

Investigation into the death of Fikri Memodovski

I refer to your correspondence dated 13 November 2012 addressed to Martin Fletcher, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. Martin Fletcher has referred the correspondence to the Medical Board of Australia (Board) for consideration and action.

I have noted your finding into the death of Fikri Memodovski and in particular, recommendation 2 which is relevant to the Board and which states:

"Medical practitioners should be reminded of their responsibility to understand their own personal legal obligations to report deaths that are reportable to the coroner. I therefore recommend that the Medical Board of Australia – Victorian Division consider communicating this to their members."

It is in the interest of the public that medical practitioners meet their legal obligations in relation to reporting deaths that are reportable to the coroner for the reasons stated in your finding into the death of Fikri Memodovski. The Board has therefore decided to publish an article in the next edition of the Medical Board Update that confirms the message that medical practitioners have a responsibility to understand their own personal legal obligations to report deaths that are reportable to the coroner.

The Medical Board Update is sent to all registered medical practitioners (not limited to Victorian registrants) so the Board's response will be broader than your recommendation. However, it is an important message that is applicable to medical practitioners in all jurisdictions. In the article, we intend to refer medical practitioners to the National Coronial Information System website (www.ncis.org.au) as we are aware that the legislation regarding coroners and reportable deaths is similar around the country but it is not identical. The NCIS website contains the necessary links so that registrants can access the reporting responsibilities that are relevant to them.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency will also publish a case summary on its website, naming the deceased person, with your recommendations in full. A link will also be provided to the full findings.

Thank you for bringing this important matter to the Board's attention.

Yours sincerely

Dr Joanna Flynn AM
Chair
Medical Board of Australia

Copy: Martin Fletcher, CEO of AHPRA and Dr Laurie Warfe, Chair of the Vic Board of the MBA