

FORM 37

Rule 60(1)

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

Court reference: 2081/08

Inquest into the Death of SUSAN ANNE BURANDT

Delivered On:	16 September, 2011
Delivered At:	Melbourne
Hearing Dates:	16 September, 2011
Findings of:	CORONER AUDREY JAMIESON
Appearances:	Leading Senior Constable King Taylor PCSU assisting the Coroner
Place of death:	Broadmeadows Health Service (Palliative Care)

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FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

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Court reference: 2081/08

In the Coroners Court of Victoria at Melbourne

I, AUDREY JAMIESON, Coroner

having investigated the death of:

Details of deceased:

Surname: BURANDT
First name: SUSAN
Address: 2 Buvelot Place, Sunbury, Victoria 3429

AND having held an inquest in relation to this death on 16th September, 2011

at Melbourne

find that the identity of the deceased was SUSAN ANNE BURANDT

and death occurred on 17th May, 2008

at Broadmeadows Health Service Palliative Care Unit

from:

1a. METASTATIC CARCINOMA BREAST

In the following circumstances:

1. Ms Susan Burandt was born 20 June 1954. She was 53 years of age at the time of her death. She lived at 2 Buvelot Place, Sunbury, a property managed by Disability Accommodation Services (DAS), a division of the Department of Human Services.
2. Ms Burandt had a history of intellectual disability. She had lived at the family home in South Kingsville until May 2005, when her parents were unable to continue caring for her due to an illness of her father. She moved to the Department of Human Services home in Sunbury at that time. At the house she received care and assistance in all activities of daily living.
3. In October 2006, Ms Burandt was diagnosed with breast cancer. On 19 April 2007, she underwent a full mastectomy and removal of lymph glands of her left breast at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Following the operation her health continued to deteriorate.

4. On 15 May 2008, Ms Burandt was admitted to Broadmeadows Health Service, Palliative Care Unit. She died two days later on 17 May 2008.

5. The death of Susan Burandt was a *reportable death*¹, as immediately before her death she was a *person held in care*² as is defined in the *Coroners Act 1985*.

Investigation

6. Ms Burandt's mother, May Burandt, lodged an Objection to Autopsy, under s29 of the *Coroners Act 1985* (the old Act). Dr Michael Burke, Forensic Pathologist at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, performed an external examination and reported to the coroner that a reasonable cause of death in the circumstances could be attributed to metastatic breast carcinoma. The Objection to Autopsy was upheld.

7. An Inquest into the death of Susan Burandt was mandated by section 17(1)(b)³ of the old Act. Section 52(2)(b) *Coroners Act 2008* came into effect on 1 November 2009 and reciprocated the requirement for an Inquest for *a person placed in custody or care*. The Police Brief of Evidence was received in April 2011.

8. No witnesses were called to give evidence before the Court. A summary of the circumstances was provided by Leading Senior Constable Taylor, Assisting the Coroner.

Finding

I accept and adopt the medical cause of death as identified by Dr Michael Burke and find that Susan Burandt died from natural causes being specifically, metastatic breast carcinoma.

¹"reportable death" means a death-

- (a) where the body is in Victoria; or
- (b) that occurred in Victoria; or
- (c) the cause of which occurred in Victoria; or
- (d) of a person who ordinarily resided in Victoria at the time of death-

being a death-

(e) that appears to have been unexpected, unnatural or violent or to have resulted, directly or indirectly, from accident or injury; or.....

- (i) **of a person who immediately before death was a person held in care; or.....**

²"person held in care" means-

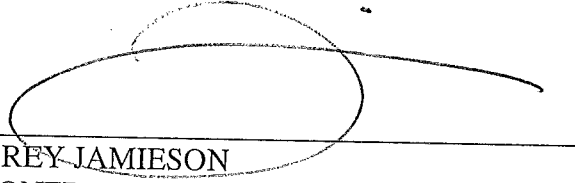
- (a) a person under the control, care or custody of the Secretary to the Department of Human Services....

³ s.17(1)A coroner who has jurisdiction to investigate a death must hold an inquest if the body is in Victoria or it appears to the coroner that the death, or the cause of death, occurred in Victoria and-

- (a) the coroner suspects homicide; or
- (b) **the deceased was immediately before death a person held in care; or.....**

AND I further find that there is no relationship between Ms Burandt's death and the fact that she was a *person held in care*.

Signature:



AUDREY JAMIESON
CORONER

16th September, 2011



Distribution of finding:

Mrs May Burandt

Health Information Services
Broadmeadows Health Service

Domain Manager, Disability Accommodation Services
North and West Metropolitan Region
Department of Human Services