



Department of Justice and Community Safety

Secretary

Level 29
121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
GPO Box 123
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Telephone: (03) 8684 0501
justice.vic.gov.au
DX: 210077

Our ref: BC/19/26015
Your ref: COR 2017 4222



Coroner Simon McGregor
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Coroner McGregor

I refer to your findings without inquest delivered on 30 August 2019 regarding the death of Mr Agostino Cutugno and your recommendation that:

Corrections Victoria develop procedures to ensure that, where prisoners have cognitive disabilities or communication difficulties, their families and carers are promptly granted access to visit them during times when those prisoners require medical care, and that Corrections Victoria engage with G4S to ensure that these procedures are put in place for prisoners being treated at St Vincent's Hospital.

I wish to advise that the Department of Justice and Community Safety (the department) has accepted and implemented your recommendation.

The department's existing policies provide that a prisoner's emergency contact be notified when a prisoner is suffering from a life-threatening illness. G4S has since revised its policies to ensure they are more closely aligned with the department's policies.

G4S's new policies state that exceptions can be made to standard contact visits if the prisoner's illness is life threatening, including where a prisoner with a cognitive disability is receiving end of life medical treatment. This allows for family and carer visits to be approved with short notice for a range of circumstances. All visits, however, remain subject to minimum visiting security arrangements and an individual risk assessment approved by the General Manager of the relevant prison.

Accordingly, the department has also reminded prison General Managers to take prisoners' special needs into account when making such decisions and to exercise discretion when it comes to the number of visits prisoners with end of life illness are afforded.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Allison Will, Director, Justice Assurance and Review Office on (03) 8684 6303.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Falkingham
Secretary