

28 January 2021

Coroners Court of Victoria  
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65 Kavanagh St, Southbank 3006

**Requested response to the Coroner for Baby C (COR 2018 002659)**

Dear Deputy State Coroner English,

Please find below Western Health's combined response to the previously circulated coronial findings related to the Baby C investigation. The below comments relate to the coroner's finding on the triage assessment.

Western Health can confirm that all paediatric patients presenting to our Emergency Departments are to receive a full Triage assessment as outlined in the Emergency Triage Education Kit (ETEK) guidelines. As a part of the triage process, all paediatric patients have a respiratory rate, heart rate, capillary refill, temperature and oxygen saturation measured along with a review of general appearance and a focused review of presenting history and relevant co-morbidities. Measurement of blood pressures in children presents unique challenges and is not always possible at triage.

The ETEK specifies that "Hypotension is a very late sign of haemodynamic compromise in infants and children. The initial assessment is dependent upon, the general appearance and the assessment of pulse and central capillary refill" (Emergency Triage Education Kit, p. 46), which is consistently measured and documented by triage nurses. On arrival to the clinical area (inside the department, in a Children's Cubicle) a full set of vital signs is documented, including a mandatory blood pressure on all paediatric presentations. For children who receive a subsequent reassessment in the waiting room, including those children who may exceed the designated waiting time, a full set of vital signs, including blood pressure is obtained and documented by the nurse completing the assessment.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Paul Eleftheriou  
**Chief Medical Officer**