



## Department of Health

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Ms Olivia Collard  
Senior Coroners' Registrar  
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Dear Ms Collard

I write to provide additional information to the Department of Health's recent correspondence dated 27 July 2021 regarding Coroner Leveasque Peterson's investigation and findings into the death of Michael James Woodhouse on 26 August 2018 (COR 2018 004277).

In those findings, the coroner's recommendation was that the department "develop a training package or similar resource for primary health care providers to support them in educating patients with existing heart conditions on the cardiac effects of synthetic cannabinoids and the risks associated with their use".

Our response stated that the Department of Health would seek guidance from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) on how to best give effect to the recommendation and raise the profile of this issue with primary health care providers.

We have now consulted with senior representatives from RACGP who have advised that the optimal approach would be to review RACGP's existing ischemic heart disease educational resources and include information on the risks arising for people using synthetic cannabinoids. The RACGP's view was that a standalone resource on the cardiac risks of synthetic cannabinoids would be less impactful.

The department and RACGP will also develop aligned public communications on this risk with the support of the Alcohol and Drug Foundation.

I thank the court for providing these recommendations and trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MA', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Melissa Arduca**  
Director, Mental Health and AOD Strategy and Policy  
Mental Health and Wellbeing Division  
Department of Health

06/09/2021