



## Secretary

Department of Health

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BAC-CO-14904  
COR 2018 004277

Ms Olivia Collard  
Senior Coroners' Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
[cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)

Dear Ms Collard

Thank you for your letter of 14 May 2021 regarding Coroner Leveasque Peterson's investigation and findings into the death of Michael James Woodhouse on 26 August 2018.

I recognise the tragic loss of life described in the coroner's findings and the impact of Mr Woodhouse's death on his loved ones.

The Department of Health (the department) notes the matters in relation to the findings of Mr Woodhouse's death caused by "coronary artery disease in a man using synthetic cannabinoid". I note the coroner's recommendation that to avoid future deaths 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".

As the Court is aware, in a previous response to Coroner Jamison's findings into the death of Mr P on 21 September 2021, the then Secretary Kym Peake outlined the range of ways in which the Victorian Government and the department support the prevention and reduction of harms associated with alcohol and other drugs, including synthetic cannabinoids.

In response to the coroner's current recommendation the department is seeking guidance from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners on how to best give effect to the recommendation and raise the profile of this issue with primary health care providers. My department will forward the outcomes of this discussion to you when available.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please contact Ms Melissa Arduca, Director, Mental Health and AOD Strategy and Policy, 0429 380 899; [melissa.arduca@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:melissa.arduca@health.vic.gov.au).

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Euan M Wallace', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

**Professor Euan M Wallace AM**  
Secretary

27/07/2021