

28 July 2021

Marden Bevan
Coroner's Registrar, Coroners Team 5
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner's Registrar Bevan,

Re: Court ref: COR 2018 6168 – Finding into death without inquest of Kent William Thomas

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Coroners Court of Victoria for the emails dated 03 and 05 May 2021 regarding the finding into death without inquest of Kent William Thomas

Requested responses to the following recommendations:

- a) *The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners work with Hearing Australia to develop a guideline for general practitioners to screen for and treat tinnitus related distress in 1) newly diagnosed cases of tinnitus in which investigations are still ongoing and 2) cases of tinnitus where investigations do not identify a cause and treatment does not adequately alleviate symptoms. Such a guideline should include a suicide risk assessment and appropriate treatment options for those identified as experiencing tinnitus related distress.*
- b) *The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners promote awareness to general practitioners of the significant psychosocial impacts of tinnitus and tinnitus related distress, including associated risks and the risk of suicide.*

RACGP Responses pursuant to section 72(2) of the Act:

Good person-centred care in general practice requires a holistic assessment and biopsychosocial assessment should be part of care. There are certain presentations like tinnitus where this is relevant, requiring more specificity.

The RACGP publication the Australian Journal of General Practice (AJGP), [Review of Tinnitus](#) article provides relevant guidance on how to handle tinnitus presentations - including 'bothersome' tinnitus and use of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy approaches and referral to audiology services.

To increase awareness the RACGP is will publish the coroner's findings verbatim in our In Practice publication with a link to the AJGP article.

We hope that this information is useful. If you have any further questions about the above, please contact RACGP Victoria State Manager Kon Kakris via kon.kakris@racgp.org.au



Yours sincerely

Dr Anita Muñoz
Chair, Victoria Faculty