

20 December 2021

Coroners Court of Victoria

By email to: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner

Re: Investigation into the death of Marilyn Burdon (reference COR2017 004175)

Thank you for your correspondence dated 21 September 2021 enclosing a copy of Coroner Judge Cain's findings in relation to the inquest into the death of Marilyn Burdon. I wish to express my condolences to Marilyn Burdon's family and friends for their loss in such difficult circumstances.

The finding includes a recommendation made under section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic) (the Act), *"That the RANZCP mandate that of the 50 hours per year of continuing medical education (as required by the Medical Board of Australia) that Fellows complete, not less than four hours of training and education within a two-year period relate [sic] to Family Violence (including but not limited to identification, risk assessment or understanding of the relevant frameworks) (four hours out of 100 hours.)"* p 39 [1]

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists' (RANZCP) Committee for Continuing Professional Development (CCPD) considered the recommendation, noting several factors including the structure and requirements of the current RANZCP CPD program and the fact that the RANZCP's CPD Program is delivered across Australia and New Zealand and is referable to each specialist psychiatrist's scope of practice, rather than directive or jurisdiction-specific.

In response to the Coroner's recommendation and your correspondence, the CCPD has decided that an alternative to the Coroner's recommendation would be appropriate, and the RANZCP suggests an alternative to the design of a targeted Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activity promoted to the Fellowship. The targeted CPD activity will include a range of existing activities provided as a curated 'learning pathway' through Learnit which can also be undertaken as individually for example:

- Reading of position statement 102 – Family violence and mental health [Family violence and mental health | RANZCP](#)
- Listening to Psyche Matters podcasts, [Coercive Control : An improved understanding of family violence, and its impact on mental health \(ranzcp.org\)](#) and [Exploring the Impact of Coercive Control: Perpetrator Strategies, Entrapment, and Suicide \(ranzcp.org\)](#)
- Completion of Learnit Modules, Family violence: why should it matter to psychiatrists and Domestic violence and abuse: identifying and responding to victims and perpetrators

- Attendance at a locally delivered workshop or webinar to accommodate any jurisdictional variations in policy and prevalence
- Use of commitment to change methodology, with a follow-up 6 months post learning activity
- A Quality Improvement project, for example where participants review their systems/practice against any existing standards relating to the assessment of family and domestic violence as a factor in patient presentation and make a change as part of a Plan, Do, Study, Act cycle
- Pre- and post-learning checks or quizzes can be enabled at various points in the pathway.

To discuss the alternative to the Coroner's recommendation further, please contact Callie Kalimniou, Executive General Manager, Education and Operations via email callie.kalimniou@ranzcp.org or phone 03 9601 4984.

Yours sincerely



Associate Professor Vinay Lakra

President

Ref: 2633