

10 December 2021

Ella Trickey
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Support Services
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner's Registrar Trickey,

Re: Court ref: COR 2019 001858 – Investigation into the death of [REDACTED]

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Coroners Court of Victoria for the letter dated 16 September 2021 regarding the finding into death without inquest, Mr A.

Requested responses to the following recommendation:

- 1. With the aim of promoting public health and safety, preventing deaths and supporting medical practitioners to address family violence, I recommend that the RACGP consider reviewing the White Book with reference to more up-to-date state and territory integrated, multi-agency service response frameworks and common risk assessment tools, such as Victoria's MARAM Framework.*
- 2. With the aim of promoting public health and safety, preventing deaths and supporting medical practitioners to address family violence, I recommend that the RACGP consider mandating that GPs attend a fixed amount of continuing medical education (as required by the Medical Board of Australia) per year which includes at least four hours of training and education within a two-year period related to Family Violence (including but not limited to identification, risk assessment or understanding of the relevant frameworks).*

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

1. The RACGP [White Book](#) has recently been updated. Updated information on current services and risk assessment tools are available within the relevant chapters. This release of the updated White Book has/is being communicated to all RACGP Victorian members.
2. The RACGP has long recognised that training in family violence is an important component of general practice. An effective general practice family violence response requires a complex mixture of communication and diagnostic skills, combined with a knowledge of legal, public health and support services and a focus on the safety of the patient across a diverse range of practice settings. General practice education and training is therefore an outcomes-focused, competency-based model, rather than one of compliance.

All of these areas of competencies are embedded within the core skills of the [RACGP Curriculum for Australian General Practice](#). This can be affirmed by a review of our curriculum and using the search term 'family violence'. Also, part of the RACGP Curriculum is a specific unit on [abuse and violence](#).

Although GPs are expected to achieve general practice family violence management competencies, the RACGP does not support a 'one-size' approach for family violence training and does not support specific

once-off mandatory training. Rather, a wide variety of approaches and resources, taking into account the different levels of professional competence of GPs in this area, ensure that family violence remains an ongoing general practice priority.

The RACGP is collaborating with the Safer Families Centre, University of Melbourne, as part of [The Readiness Program](#) - a national training program for primary care providers to effectively recognise, respond, refer and record domestic and family violence using a trauma and violence informed approach.

RACGP Victoria is currently in negotiation with the Victorian Department of Health to develop and deliver additional educational opportunities and support services for GPs related to domestic and family violence and information sharing schemes.

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