



## Secretary

Department of Health

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Nicole D'Rozario  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
Via e-mail: [cpuresponses@courts.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@courts.vic.gov.au)

Dear Ms D'Rozario

Court reference: COR 2019 004949

Thank you for your letter of 29 September 2021 regarding Coroner Simon McGregor's finding and recommendations on the death of [REDACTED].

I extend my deepest condolences to [REDACTED]'s family and those affected by [REDACTED] death.

The Department of Health accepts the recommendation and relevant findings that more can be done to coordinate our efforts to reduce drug related mortality among people who are released from prison, and that this should include efforts to support improved information sharing and planning. I am pleased to report that officers of the Departments of Health and Justice and Community Safety are working together to respond to your findings.

Initial planning work in response to the previous inquest findings into the death of Shae Paszkiewicz was undertaken between the departments but was interrupted during 2020 and 2021 while government responded to the demands of COVID-19.

This work will restart in coming months on how existing governance arrangements may be improved to meet the objectives underpinning both findings. The Departments will provide an update to the Coroner in due course.

We understand the Department of Justice and Community Safety will respond separately in relation to recommendation two.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Amy Herbert, Acting Director, Mental Health and AOD Strategy and Policy, Mental Health and Wellbeing Division at the Department of Health at [amy.herbert@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:amy.herbert@health.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Euan M Wallace", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Professor Euan M Wallace AM**  
Secretary

08/12/2021