

Corporate Services
Monash Medical Centre
246 Clayton Road
Clayton Victoria 3168

Postal Address:
Locked Bag 29
Clayton South Vic 3169

Tel (03) 9594 2742
Fax (03) 9594 6590

30 June 2022

By email: team6@courts.vic.gov.au

Coroner's Registrar
Team 6
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank 3006

Attention: James Whyman

Dear Sir,


Reference 2016 0001895

I am writing to provide Monash Health's update regarding Coroner Spanos' recommendations pursuant to section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008* which were included in the findings made in this matter on 30 March 2022.

Coroner Spanos recommended that Monash Health develop a procedure that addresses the need for scene preservation and/or recording, in circumstances where a serious suicide attempt has taken place in an inpatient facility, in anticipation of a foreseeable coronial investigation. Such a procedure could also assist the health service to undertake its own internal review or root cause analysis (whether mandated or otherwise) and to comply, more broadly, with its duty of care obligations.

Monash Health accepts the coroner's recommendations and has updated its procedures as of 9 June 2022 to include the following:

Management of the scene within the Mental Health Inpatient unit

Staff must take measures to ensure that any items that have been associated with the deceased, and possibly involved in their death, or the circumstances leading to the death (such as clothing, medication, ligatures, weapons or other items as identified as relevant), as well as the room or space in which the death has occurred, are secured for further examination, investigation and/or collection by the Police. In the event of a serious suicide attempt, where there is reasonable chance that the person will not survive, the scene should be preserved (as above) and police notified for advice.

Please do not hesitate to advise if I may be of further assistance to the Court.

**Monash Medical
Centre Clayton**
246 Clayton Road
Clayton
Tel: 9594 6666

Moorabbin Hospital
Centre Road
East Benteigh
Tel: 9928 8111

Kingston Centre
Warrigal Road
Cheltenham
Tel: 9265 1000

Dandenong Hospital
David Street
Dandenong
Tel: 9554 1000

Casey Hospital
Kangan Drive
Berwick
Tel: 8768 1200

**Community-based
services across
the South East**

ABN 82 142 080 338



Peter Ryan
Chief Legal Officer