



## The Hon Daniel Andrews MP

Premier of Victoria

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Melbourne, Victoria 3002 Australia  
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Coroner Sarah Gebert  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

BMIN-220800963

Dear Coroner Gebert

I write in response to the letter from your office received on 17 May 2022 regarding the investigation you conducted into the death of Mr J (Coroners Court of Victoria reference COR 2020 0549).

I acknowledge the tragic death of Mr J and express my sincere sympathy to the family and loved ones of Mr J. I also want to thank you for your thorough investigation of the circumstances of Mr J's death.

I note your finding that the hospital Mr J attended was unable to provide access to timely overnight mental health assessment due to more urgent priorities. I also note your finding that emergency departments are one of few options available to those experiencing mental health crises, and the possibility that Mr J would have been better suited and more willing to engage with a 'safe space' model of mental health care.

When the Victorian Government pledged in 2018 to hold a Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System (Royal Commission), we knew the current system was not able to provide the treatment, care and support that Victorians were asking for, despite the hard work of so many in the mental health and wellbeing sector.

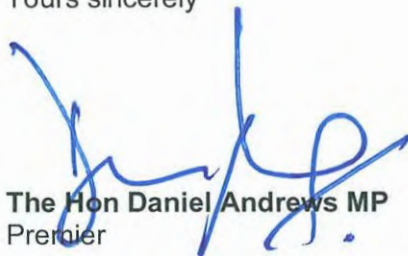
As you are likely aware, we have since committed to implementing all of the Royal Commission's recommendations. The ten-year system reform program must balance the enormous scale and time required for considered reform with the urgency required to deal with current system challenges.

We will consider the recommendations you have made as part of forward implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendations, noting the strong alignment. In particular, delivery of recommendation 8.3 (improving emergency department responses to mental health crises) and recommendation 9 (developing safe spaces and crisis respite facilities) seek to better support Victorians seeking emergency mental health care in the future.

I invite you to consider publishing this response on the Coroners Court of Victoria website and providing a copy to the family and any other relevant interested parties.

Should you require any further information regarding the Victorian Government's response to your recommendations, please contact Ms Katherine Whetton, Deputy Secretary, Mental Health and Wellbeing, of the Department of Health at [katherine.whetton@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:katherine.whetton@health.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Andrews', is written over a light blue grid background.

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP  
Premier

28/11