



**Barwon
Health**

13 July 2023

Ms Mikaela Meggetto
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
By email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Corporate Office

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Dear Ms Meggetto

Investigation into the death of Mr David Van Vledder (COR 2021 001315)

I am writing on behalf of Barwon Health to acknowledge the finding without inquest into the death of David Van Vledder, and the recommendation that was directed to Barwon Health pursuant to section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008 (Vic)*.

Barwon Health has implemented the recommended intervention since receipt of the Coroner's finding, as follows.

A Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) project in the Emergency Department (ED) has been completed, having been commenced prior to the Coroner's finding. There is now a streamlined pathway for staff to ask adult patients at registration whether they smoke or vape. If the answer is yes, an alert is placed on the patient's medical record and their paperwork supplemented with an NRT drug chart. The first clinician (nursing or medical) to see the patient then offers NRT and prescribes it if accepted. Nurses may now initiate NRT.

Materials used in the project include:

- Training for ED staff (Powerpoint presentation, placed on ED shared drive for new staff to access) (educational video included in original Powerpoint) (pdf attached)
- ED nursing education module on GROW, Barwon Health's online staff training application
- NRT medication chart (attached)
- NRT poster (attached)

Training is being provided to all clinical staff in the Emergency Department.

A procedure is being developed and a copy can be provided to the Coroner in due course.

The training and procedure will be subject to a review cycle.

Yours sincerely

Dr Ajai Verma
Chief Medical Officer



OUR VALUES / RESPECT / COMPASSION / COMMITMENT / ACCOUNTABILITY / INNOVATION