



The Victoria Clinic

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25<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

**BY EMAIL [cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)**

Ms Olivia Collings  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroner's Support Services  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
Level 2, 55 Southbank Boulevard  
MELBOURNE VIC 3006

Dear Ms Collings

**Investigation into the death of Michael Delaney  
Court Ref: COR 2020 001875**

I refer to your letter dated 29 June 2023.

In her Finding into the death without inquest of Michael Delaney dated 6 June 2023, Coroner Jamieson made one recommendation directed to Healthscope, namely:

*'With the aim of promoting public health and safety and preventing like circumstances, I recommend that Healthscope develop a policy or procedure whereby admitting psychiatrists and/or The Victoria Clinic staff communicate directly (subject to consent) with external health professionals involved in the care of current inpatients to ascertain the outcome of any assessment and/or treatment recommendations.'*

Healthscope acknowledges and accepts the Coroner's Finding and recommendation above.

In response to the Coroner's recommendation, Healthscope agrees that it is best practice for admitting psychiatrists to communicate directly with external health professionals involved in the care of current inpatients to ascertain the outcome of any assessment and/or treatment recommendations. Healthscope proposes to revise the current policy 9.15 'Admission of a Patient – Mental Health Hospital/Facility' to reference this practice.

The proposed amendments to the policy are scheduled to be discussed at Healthscope's upcoming Mental Health Committee meeting on 12 October 2023. If and when the proposed amendments are agreed to and finalised at the Mental Health Committee meeting on 12 October 2023, it is estimated that the policy will be updated by the end of November 2023.

I thank Her Honour for her recommendation and the opportunity afforded to Healthscope to provide its response. I trust that the information above adequately informs Her Honour of the steps that are being taken to respond to her recommendation.

On behalf of Healthscope, I extend my sincere condolences to Mr Delaney's family.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Curtis', written in a cursive style.

Steven Curtis  
Acting Director of Nursing  
The Victoria Clinic