

30 April 2024

Coroners Court of Victoria

65 Kavanagh Street Southbank VIC 3006

Re: Adelaide Wilson: COR 2022 000978

Attention: Kate Bryant: Coroners Registrar: Coroners Support Services

Further to the Coroner McGregor's recommendations made pursuant to section 72(2) of the Act and in particular item (ii) at page 9, on behalf of Australian Clinical Labs, I provide the following response.

Further to consultation with Dr David Deam (Head of Chemical Pathology) and Dr Chris Barnes (National Director of Clinical Pathology) at Australian Clinical Labs I was provided with the following information.

1. No point of care device is available in Australia that imbeds and produces reference ranges in reports.
2. No point of care device is available in Australia that provides cognitive aids to assist with result interpretation.
3. Reference ranges are determined based on mass data analysis and vary depending on age, gender, ethnicity, clinical status and treatment (prior and current). Reference ranges can also be diagnostic device specific. As a consequence the imbedding of reference ranges within point of care devices is not available.
4. Within the laboratory the analysis of a patient's test result relative to the appropriate reference range is performed by specialist pathologists and scientists utilising both patient specific and population based data with the assistance of decision support software integrated into a main frame computing systems. Current results are compared to previous results. Changes in the clinical status of the patient are considered. Point of care devices do not have this capacity.
5. In the future point of care devices may have some of these capacities and Australian Clinical Labs will of course consider implementation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Landgren', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Dr Tony Landgren

National Medical Director & Chief Pathologist

Australian Clinical Labs