

03 July 2024

Janet Lee
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh St
Southbank, Victoria, 3006

Dear Ms Lee,

Re: Court ref: 2019 0188 - Investigation into the death of [REDACTED]

The General Practice Mental Health Standards Collaboration (GPMHSC) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 22 April 2024, regarding the death of [REDACTED]

As per the Coroner's recommendation and pursuant to Section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008, the GPMHSC [Mental health training standards 2023–25: A guide for training providers](#) currently provides guidance in accordance with the coroner's suggestion on obtaining collateral information, where legally and ethically feasible, as a key step in facilitating comprehensive mental health assessment and treatment planning. We provide this information below:

1. GPMHSC Mental Health training standards

The GPMHSC [Mental health training standards 2023–25: A guide for training providers](#) (a document designed for training providers who develop mental health activities) outlines the learning outcomes and course content requirements to meet GPMHSC-accreditation. The following specific learning outcomes are outlined in the Standards:

- Page 18 necessity for a thorough mental health assessment, which includes but is not limited to psychosocial history taking, risk assessment for suicide and self-harm, and current psychosocial status and the effects of social determinants of health
- Page 18 application of complexities and comorbidities often associated with mental illness, and the use of psychometric instruments to aid mental health assessment and the identification of changes in symptoms

2. GPMHSC Mental Health Treatment Plan (MHTP) templates

In addition to the Standards, the GPMHSC has designed, developed and continues to upgrade the GPMHSC Mental Health Treatment Plan (MHTP) templates, widely used by GPs when seeing a patient experiencing mental health concerns. Within the MHTP, GPs are asked to discuss with the patient relevant medical/biological information, mental health/psychological information and social history.

Patients are additionally asked about current mental health issues and requests and hopes for improvement, and it is recommended that GPs complete a case formulation, whereby GPs ascertain the patients presenting, predisposing, precipitating and perpetuating issues, as well as a discussion around protective factors.

The GPMHSC will continue to advocate for collateral information to be recorded when GPs develop a comprehensive mental health assessment and treatment plan for their patients.

Should you require any additional information, please feel free to contact Alex Smith [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Assoc Prof Morton Rawlin
Chair, GPMHSC Committee