



4 September 2024

Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank Victoria 3006

By email

Dear Coroner

Re: Finding into the death of Noah Andrew Souvatzis: COR 2021 007004

North East Health Wangaratta notes the findings and recommendations of the Coroner.

North East Health Wangaratta disagrees with the criticisms of Dr Douglas Devereux at [62]-[64]; [75]-[81] and [104]-[107].

Dr Devereux was placed in a very difficult situation where the expectations that were placed on him were beyond reasonable capability, particularly on an exceptionally busy day in an Emergency Department that was overwhelmed.

It was incumbent on North East Health Wangaratta, and not Dr Devereux, to ensure:

1. that the doctor rostered to the second in charge role was suitably qualified and able to safely perform the functions of a second in charge doctor;
2. that appropriately skilled and experienced staff were on shift;
3. that the doctor rostered to the second in charge role was adequately orientated.

North East Health Wangaratta is entirely supportive of, and has complete faith in, Dr Devereux's competency as a clinician.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Libby Fifis".

Libby Fifis
Chief Executive Officer

Contact:

Phone: (03) 5722 5111
Fax: (03) 5722 5109
ABN: 13 157 273 279

Mail: PO Box 386 Wangaratta VIC 3676
Email: enquiries@nhw.org.au
Web: www.nhw.org.au

Locations:

Hospital: 35-47 Green Street Wangaratta
Community Care Centre: 4-12 Clark Street Wangaratta
Illoura Residential Aged Care: 32-50 College Street Wangaratta