



Hon Jacinta Allan MP

Premier of Victoria

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BMIN-240700614

Your reference: COR 2020 003368

Coroner Ingrid Giles
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Coroner Giles

I write in response to the letter from your office dated 5 July 2024 regarding the Finding without inquest (Finding) into the death of Ms BCJ.

I acknowledge the tragic death of Ms BCJ and express my sincere condolences to her family and friends.

The Coroner's recommendations

Pursuant to section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic), you made the following recommendations in the Finding:

1. Family Safety Victoria (FSV) review and update the guidelines for entities sharing information under the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme; and
2. the Victorian Government ensure all Specialist Family Violence Courts (SFVCs) in Victoria have adequately funded and resourced specialist legal and non-legal family violence services on site.

Response to recommendations

I understand that FSV will respond to recommendation one, and so my response concerns recommendation two on funding and resourcing of SFVCs.

The Victorian Government has taken recommendation two under consideration.

In January 2023, the Victorian Government announced it had implemented all 227 recommendations of the 2016 Royal Commission into Family Violence (the Royal Commission). The Royal Commission recommended that SFVCs have specialist magistrates, registrars, and applicant and respondent workers, as well as dedicated police prosecutors and civil advocates.

The government has invested significantly in appropriately resourcing the state's 13 SFVCs with specialist legal and non-legal services, including \$78 million in the 2021-22 State Budget for expansion of SFVCs and \$23 million in the 2023-24 State Budget for Victoria Police and Victoria Legal Aid to provide specialist police prosecutors and legal support at SFVCs.

The Victorian Government is continuing to drive action at every stage for victim survivors of family violence and a new package of reforms I announced on 30 May 2024 will change laws and culture and deliver new support services for victim-survivors. The government will consider recommendation two as part of work to implement these reforms and through annual State Budget processes. The government will also continue to work closely with departments, victim-survivors and support services to ensure that affected family members and respondents in family violence matters have access to relevant resources.

Should you require any further information regarding the Victorian Government's response to your second recommendation, please contact Marian Chapman, Deputy Secretary of Courts, Civil and Criminal Law, Department of Justice and Community Safety at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Member for Bendigo East
Premier

6.9.24