



13 December 2024

Coroners Court of Victoria
cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

COR 2019 000968
Inquest into the death of George Diamond

138. Recommendation 2

The Neurosurgical Society of Australasia, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), in conjunction with Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians (ACSEP) should consider developing appropriate mandatory training for medical practitioners in relation to providing medical clearance for individuals to commence and return to boxing and other combat sports.

The Coroner's recommendation has been considered and will be implemented.

I have received and reviewed the Coroner's findings with the inquest into the death of George Diamond. The recommendations include:

- Consideration should be given to enhancing the VABL Certificate of Fitness form to provide more detailed information by medical practitioners.
- Mandatory training should be developed for medical practitioners regarding the assessment and management of head injuries in combat sports, particularly with regard to providing medical clearance for individuals to return to training and competition.
- Guidelines should be created for the appropriate threshold for performing CT scans or MRI scans in individuals involved in boxing and other combat sports who present with ongoing symptoms following mild head injury.

Representatives from The Neurosurgical Society of Australasia and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners contributed to the expert panel but a representative from the Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians (ACSEP) was not directly involved in the inquest.

The ACSEP is uniquely qualified to address the concerns raised in the findings and recommendations. As the only specialist medical college providing formal and mandatory training for registrars in the assessment and management of sport-related head injuries, particularly concussion, ACSEP is ideally positioned to deliver training for both medical practitioners and other healthcare practitioners. ACSEP has expertise and experience to contribute to each of the key recommendations, specifically Recommendation 2.



ACSEP members have contributed to the development of two internationally recognised current reviews into the management of Concussion, published over the last 2 years.

1. Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport – the 6th International Conference on Concussion in Sport
Patricios JS, et al. Br J Sports Med 2023;57:695–711
<https://bjsm.bmj.com/content/57/11/695>
2. Australian Institute of Sport Concussion and Brain Health Position Statement 2024
https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1132470/AIS-Concussion-and-Brain-Health-Position-Statement-2024-FINAL.pdf

To date, ACSEP has not received any correspondence from the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia or the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners or KPMG. ACSEP will collaborate with these organisations to develop appropriate training resources for medical practitioners who assess and manage head injuries in combat sports and then provide medical clearance for return to training and competition.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Corey Cunningham
MBBS FRACGP MSpMed FACSEP

President, Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians