



Department of Health

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Janet Lee
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
Via e-mail: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Lee

**Coronial finding into death without Inquest – TK – COR 2021 001 470 –
Response to coroner's recommendation to the Department of Health's Office of the
Chief Psychiatrist (OCP)**

I refer to the above finding of Her Honour Coroner Ingrid Giles, including the recommendation made by Her Honour to the Department's OCP, pursuant to section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic):

*To the **Office of the Chief Psychiatrist**: Noting that mental health and wellbeing services need to minimise the risk of harm to patients being discharged to sexually unsafe environments, I recommend the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist consider extending the 'Promoting sexual safety, responding to sexual activity, and managing allegations of sexual assault in adult acute inpatient units guideline' (2012) to incorporate managing situations whereby vulnerable patients may be discharged into environments whereby their sexual safety may be at risk.*

The Department has reviewed the recommendation and accepts the recommendation in full.

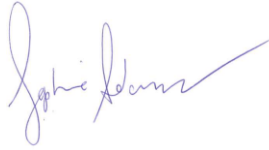
The 'Promoting sexual safety, responding to sexual activity, and managing allegations of sexual assault in adult acute inpatient units guideline' (2012) has been updated and is now called the 'Improving sexual safety in mental health and wellbeing services: Chief Psychiatrist guideline' (September 2023).

The coroner's recommendation was discussed at the Chief Psychiatrist Sexual Safety Committee on 26 November 2024, and it was agreed that adding guidance on managing situations whereby vulnerable patients may be discharged into environments where their sexual safety may be at risk would strengthen the guideline. This is in addition to the existing information in the 'Transfer of care (discharge) planning and referrals' section.

The OCP is currently making several updates to the guideline in consultation with the Chief Psychiatrist sexual safety committee. This addition will be part of this process which is expected to be completed by March 2025.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact the OCP on 1300 767 299 or ocp@health.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sophie Adams', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Associate Professor Sophie Adams

MBBS, MA(Bioethic), MHLM, PhD, GAICD, FRACMA, FRANZCP

Chief Psychiatrist of Victoria

Mental Health and Wellbeing Division

6/ 1 / 2025