

12 March 2025

Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street,
Southbank, Victoria, 3006

By email to: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner Judge Cain

Re: Samantha Joy Fraser (COR 2018 003600)

On behalf of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP), I acknowledge the Finding into the death of Samantha Joy Fraser. We extend our condolences to the family, friends, kin, and community affected by this loss. I note recommendation iii:

“That measures be taken by the APS and RANZCP to introduce family violence mandatory CPD for registered psychologists and psychiatrists to provide for an occupation-specific level of family violence understanding and referrals for further support where a patient/client is identified as experiencing or suspected to be experiencing family violence.”

I can advise that the recommendation, as it relates to the RANZCP, was implemented as feasibly possible within the RANZCP structures, in response to an earlier direction from the Coroner’s Court of Victoria that psychiatrists undertake regular mandatory family violence training. All RANZCP members can access the Family and Domestic Violence Learning Path via our online platform. The non-mandatory module contributes to psychiatrists’ required continuing professional development and provides them with an understanding of:

- How they can identify and respond to family violence, including coercive control
- Their duty of care to patients experiencing family violence
- How they can access further support for patients impacted by family violence

The RANZCP has a strong record of addressing family violence. In [Position Statement 102: Family Violence and Mental Health](#), the RANZCP recognises the significant impact of family violence as a public health, and social and human rights issue. The RANZCP is committed to supporting the mental health of family violence survivors through trauma-informed care, as outlined in [Position Statement 100: Trauma-Informed Practice](#). The RANZCP has also

developed [Family and Domestic Violence Clinical Practice Guidelines](#). We acknowledge that responding to family violence also requires effective preventions and treatments for perpetrators. In addition, the RANZCP has an active [Family Violence Psychiatry Network Committee](#).

To discuss this further, or in relation to any other matter, please contact Ms Jo Balmforth, Policy and Advocacy Advisor [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Dr Elizabeth Moore
President

Ref: 4771