



# Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

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27 February 2025

Kate Sanderson  
Coroners Registrar  
Coroners Support Services  
65 Kavanagh Street Southbank VIC 3006

Via email only: [cpresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)

Dear Ms Sanderson,

**Re: Coronial Investigation Finalised George Diamond reference number COR 2019 000968**

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the Coroners Court of Victoria's findings following the inquest into the death of Mr George Diamond on 21 February 2019. The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM, the College) would like to extend our condolences to Mr Diamond's family for their loss.

In the first instance, ACEM would like to acknowledge and apologise for the delay in responding to the recommendation made by the coroner.

### **Recommendation 3**

*The Neurosurgical Society of Australasia, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM), consider developing guidelines to be followed in respect of patients presenting with mild head injuries but resulting from potentially dangerous mechanisms and which fall outside the scope of the Canadian CT Head Injury/ Trauma Rule (CT Head Rule) and also include the appropriate threshold for undertaking a CT Scan or MRI of a person's brain where injury has occurred in a boxing or mixed martial arts context.*

### **ACEM response to recommendation 3 pursuant to section 72(2) of the Act:**

ACEM is the peak body responsible for the training, assessment and continuing professional development of emergency physicians as well as the advancement of professional standards in emergency medicine in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. In this role, the College has developed a range of policies and position statements that set expectations for equitable, safe and high-quality emergency care in emergency departments (EDs) and other emergency care services.

The College has reviewed the report and recommendation and notes that fatalities linked to boxing (both professional and amateur) in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand while extremely sad, are a rare event. The development of a clinical guideline is reliant on high quality research data and given the low number of fatalities arising from professional and amateur boxing in Australia each year, there is a paucity of data to meet the framework to warrant developing a guideline as suggested.

ACEM has also moved away from developing clinical guidelines, as it is more appropriate for state and territory health departments to create and maintain clinical guidelines. ACEM notes that there are no existing guidelines for delayed onset of concussion resulting from potentially dangerous mechanisms, however there are existing concussion guidelines and other resources produced by peak bodies such as the Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians, which are relevant to this case.

ACEM is highly supportive of the work of the Coroners Court of Victoria and appreciates the opportunity to learn from case investigations and reports. Our Quality and Patient Safety Advisory Committee discussed this case at their February 2025 meeting and will be preparing a summary of the case and associated learnings relevant for ED staff, which will be promoted to our members and trainees.

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We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our role, policies and how we might collaborate on health system improvement with your office.

If you require further information, or if you would like to arrange a meeting, please contact Nadia Hampton, Policy Officer, Regulatory and Clinical Standards [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Stephen Gourley**  
ACEM President  
Australasian College for  
Emergency Medicine



**Associate Professor Nicola  
Cunningham**  
Chair, Quality and Patient Safety  
Committee  
Australasian College for  
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**Dr Mark Hussey**  
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