



Forensicare

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11 March 2025

Coroner's Registrar  
Team 8  
Coroner's Court of Victoria  
Via email - [cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)

Dear Sir

**Coronial inquest into the death of Michael Garry Suckling COR 2021 001217**

I write in response to the findings made by Coroner Peterson on 13 December 2024 following the inquest into the death of Michael Garry Suckling.

First, I wish to express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr Suckling.

Her Honour made 21 recommendations in the findings, many of which have implications for Forensicare as a stakeholder in the corrections system. Recommendations 11-18 (excluding Recommendation 13) are directed to Forensicare as one of the providers of health services to Victorian prisons.

Forensicare considers that the recommendations are reasonable and is committed to collaborating with the many stakeholders that are needed to achieve the reform, including Justice Health, Custodial Operations and the different Health Service Providers. However, Forensicare notes that, practically, for these recommendations to be implemented, Justice Health and Custodial Operations need to collectively lead a co-ordinated undertaking improvement project with Health Service Providers to ensure that outcomes are achieved in an integrated way across the custodial and health services. Without this, Health Service Providers would be working in silos. An overarching coordination of the implementation of the recommendations would enable consistency of implementation across all stakeholders and - it is to be hoped - lead to delivery of more cohesive service improvements across the Victorian custodial system.

This view is consistent with the position that Forensicare has previously maintained and will continue to advocate for in seeking to reduce deaths in custody and improve the health outcomes for persons in custody.

I am happy to provide additional information if this would assist the Court.

Yours sincerely

**Adj Professor Colmán O'Driscoll**  
Chief Executive Officer