

2 May 2025

BY EMAIL: team2@courts.vic.gov.au

Fiona Ransom
Coroner's Solicitor
Legal Services
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Fiona

Investigation into the death of Tasman Murray Tribe
Your ref: COR 2022 004768

We refer to His Honour's Findings dated 18 February 2025.

We note the Coroner's recommendation that:

'Barwon Health review their policies and procedures in relation to the reporting of sentinel events to ensure they are consistent with Safer Care Victoria's Victoria sentinel event guide (Version 2)'.

In response to that recommendation, our client notes as follows:

1. it was not requested to provide the Court with a copy of its sentinel event policy and procedures;
2. it confirms that, as at August 2022, its adverse patient safety event procedure aligned with Safer Care Victoria's (**SCV**'s) 2019 Sentinel Event Guide, which was in force at the time of Baby Tribe's death;
3. Version 2 of SCV's Sentinel Event Guide came into force in February 2024, two years after Baby Tribe's passing;
4. the 2019 Sentinel Event Guide defined a sentinel event as a '*subset of adverse patient safety events that are wholly preventable and result in serious harm to, or death of, a patient.*' Given that Baby Tribe's death was not considered to be wholly preventable, it was not reported to SCV as it was not considered to meet the criteria for same;
5. whilst the 2024 Sentinel Event Guide states that '*wholly preventable is not a necessary determinant for category 11 sentinel events*', this direction was not available to Barwon Health at the time of Baby Tribe's death; and
6. Barwon Health confirms that its current policy includes links to the SCV 2024 Sentinel Event Guide, and a copy of same is attached for the Coroner's reference.

For the sake of completeness, we otherwise note that the Court was previously advised that Barwon Health's records of reports to the Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity (**CCOPMM**) did not include a report to CCOPMM in respect of Baby Tribe's death.

However, after having made more extensive enquiries and searches, Barwon Health wishes to advise that, in fact, the relevant clinical documentation was forwarded to CCOPMM on 19 May 2023, and the enclosed draft review document was sent to CCOPMM on 22 November 2023. We apologise for the delay in bringing this information to the Court's attention.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if further information is required.

Yours faithfully

MinterEllison



Enclosures: Current Adverse Patient Safety Event Management & Open Disclosure: Including Statutory Duty of Candour
Requirements Guideline
Draft review forwarded to CCOPMM on 22 November 2023