



Department of Justice and Community Safety

Secretary

Level 26
121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone: (03) 8684 0501
justice.vic.gov.au

Our ref: 25054457

His Honour Judge Cain
State Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

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

Dear Judge Cain

Finding into death without inquest – Bekkie-Rae Curren – COR 2019 006509

I refer to your findings and recommendations delivered on 14 October 2024 regarding the death of Bekkie-Rae Curren. I extend my sincere condolences to the family of Bekkie-Rae Curren for their tragic loss. The Victorian Government is committed to addressing the significant issue of family violence in Victoria.

The Department of Justice and Community Safety (the department) is responding to recommendation (f) on behalf of the Victorian Government. The department's response to this recommendation is as follows:

Recommendation (f)

That the Victorian Government, in line with recommendations outlined by *The rental and housing affordability crisis in Victoria* and the *Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria*, include the right to housing in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)*.

Response to the recommendation

The Coroner's recommendation is under consideration.

As stated in the government's responses to recommendation 34 of the *Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria* and recommendation 2 of the *Inquiry into the rental and housing affordability crisis in Victoria*, the government is committed to protecting and promoting human rights and understands the importance of ensuring safe, secure and affordable housing for all Victorians.

The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities* (Charter) contains twenty rights that promote and protect the values of freedom, respect, equality and dignity. While the Charter does not contain a positive right to housing, it contains other rights that provide some protection, such as the right to privacy (section 13).

Any future reform to rights in the Charter will require detailed and thorough consideration of the resourcing and economic impacts on Victorians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kate Houghton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kate Houghton PSM
Secretary

13/06/2025