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Coroner John Olle
Coroner's Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Coroner Olle

**Coronial Investigation into the death of Alan John Trevor Deem
COR 2020 005730**

We refer to your findings into the death without inquest of Alan John Trevor Deem (**Findings**). Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your recommendations.

We acknowledge your finding that the medical management of Alan John Trevor Deem's health concerns at both Sunshine Hospital and Royal Melbourne Hospital (**RMH**) was reasonable in the circumstances.

Pursuant to section 72(3) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic), RMH has set out its response to the recommendations below.

Recommendations

In the interests of public health and safety and with the aim of preventing similar deaths, I recommend that The Royal Melbourne Hospital develop and implement a process to ensure that their clinicians comply with their own record-keeping policy(ies); and

In the interests of public health and safety and with the aim of preventing similar deaths, I recommend that The Royal Melbourne Hospital develop a toolkit to facilitate their clinicians' compliance with the own policy(ies).

Response

RMH is committed to accurate record keeping supporting the provision of patient care. RMH endeavours to continually improve its record keeping practices through continued education and process improvement.

Accurate clinical documentation is an expectation of all clinical staff as a part of patient care. As such, compliance with record keeping policies is continually monitored by RMH as a part of clinical governance as well as individual performance management of clinical staff. RMH considers this is sufficient to ensure that clinicians comply with its record-keeping policies.

In addition to the above, as referred to in paragraph [44] of your findings, RMH and Western Health have commenced the process to review the inter-hospital transfer of cardiothoracic patients between the health services, to identify any areas for improvement to ensure the prompt transfer of patients and accurate record keeping.

Finally, on behalf of Royal Melbourne Hospital we would like to again express our sympathies to Mr Deem's family for their loss.

Yours faithfully

R. D. S. S. S.

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