



Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

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15 July 2025

Niels Gabriels
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Support Services
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

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

Dear Mr Gabriels,

Re: Response Request - Sheila Quairney - reference number COR 2023 001741

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the Coroners Court of Victoria's findings regarding the inquest into the death of Sheila Quairney on 3 April 2023. The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM, the College) would like to extend our condolences to Ms Quairney's family and loved ones.

In the first instance, ACEM would like to acknowledge the delay in responding to this matter. The College was made aware of this case via a media update and unfortunately did not receive correspondence from the Coroner's Court.

Recommendations

- (i) In the interests of promoting public health and safety and with the aim of preventing similar deaths, I recommend that **St Vincent's Hospital** and the **Australasian College for Emergency Medicine** consider adopting Sheila Marion Quairney's matter as a case study to highlight the importance of a comprehensive primary and secondary assessment and of the consideration of acute coronary syndrome in females who may present atypically.

ACEM response to recommendation (i) pursuant to section 72(2) of the Act.

Following receipt of the media update, the Coroner's findings were reviewed by the Quality and Patient Safety Advisory Committee (QPSAC) at their 13 February 2025 meeting. At that meeting members agreed to convene a group of Fellows to review and write a mortality case summary for learning purposes. The mortality case summary was reviewed and approved at the next QPSAC meeting on 5 June 2025. The mortality case summary has been uploaded to the College's Educational Resources webpage, which is promoted to our members and trainees.

Once again, we apologise for the delay and welcome the opportunity to respond to the Coroners Court of Victoria.

ACEM is highly supportive of the work of the Coroners Court of Victoria and appreciates the opportunity to learn from case investigations and reports. 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, please contact Nadia Hampton, Policy Officer, Regulatory and Clinical Standards [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Gourley', written in a cursive style.

Dr Stephen Gourley
ACEM President
Australasian College for
Emergency Medicine