

30 October 2025

Ms Kate Sanderson
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Support Services
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street,
Southbank VIC 3006

Email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Sanderson,

Re: Investigation into the death of William Heddergott, Court Reference: COR 2020 006253

Thank you for your correspondence to the Australian Psychological Society (APS) of 1 August 2025 regarding Coroner Judge Cain's Finding without inquest into the death of William Heddergott. We understand that the Finding includes a recommendation made under section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic) (**the Act**), that "(ii) That the **Psychology Board of Australia** work with the **Australian Psychological Society** to implement mandatory family violence training and CPD for Australian psychiatrists."

The APS submits that for accuracy, the recommendation (ii) should be amended to "ii) ***That the Psychology Board of Australia work with the Australian Psychology Society to implement mandatory family violence training and CPD for Australian psychologists.***" In this regard the Psychology Board of Australia regulates psychologists, and APS members are psychologists rather than *psychiatrists*.

The APS' response to the recommendation may be characterised as:

(d) There are unresolved issues with the Coroner's recommendation that need to be addressed.

The APS submits in response to the recommendation:

1. The issue requiring resolution in order to implement the Coroner's recommendation is that currently there is no mandate for family violence training and CPD for Australian psychologists and it is the Psychology Board of Australia who has regulatory oversight of the profession of psychology and is empowered to determine and set mandatory training and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements for psychologists.
2. The APS supports the provision of CPD training on family violence for all psychologists, with a view to ensuring that the Australian community has access to a highly skilled workforce. We confirm that, as the leading professional membership association for psychologists, we are fully prepared to work with the Psychology Board of Australia to facilitate the development and delivery of mandatory family violence training and CPD for Australian psychologists. However, we await confirmation from the Psychology Board of Australia that they will work with the APS to implement mandatory family violence training and CPD for psychologists in Australia, with the APS able to assist with the development and delivery of the training.

3. The APS CPD library currently has four offerings available on the topic of family violence including [Intimate partner violence: Working therapeutically with victims and perpetrators](#), and [Working with perpetrators of family violence](#). Further education is in development for 2026 on *Supporting children and young people impacted by domestic and family violence*. The APS is committed to continuing to develop and promote appropriate family violence CPD and training to our members and the broader psychology profession and to emphasise the importance of this education for psychological practice.

Thank you for your correspondence on this matter. The person responsible for consideration of the recommendation is Dr Zena Burgess, CEO of the APS. I can be contacted through the APS National Office

Yours sincerely



Dr Zena Burgess FAPS FAICD
Chief Executive Officer