

7 November 2025

Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street,
Southbank, Victoria, 3006
By email to: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner Judge Cain

RE: William Charles Heddergott (COR 2020 006253)

On behalf of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP/the College), I acknowledge the finding into the death of William Heddergott and extend my sympathies to his family, friends and community. I note and respond to the recommendations as made.

College Position

The RANZCP reiterates its commitment to addressing the mental health impacts of family violence and improving clinicians' capability to identify, respond to, and support those affected.

On 12 March 2025, the College responded to similar a coronial recommendation (Recommendation iii in Samantha Fraser [COR 2018 003600]), which outlined the existing family and domestic violence learning resources available to all members via our online CPD platform. These include:

- A Family and Domestic Violence Learning Path, accessible to all members
- [RANZCP Position Statement 102: Family Violence and Mental Health](#)
- [Clinical Practice Guidelines on Family and Domestic Violence](#)
- [Position Statement 100: Trauma-Informed Practice](#)
- Oversight and leadership by the [RANZCP Family Violence Psychiatry Network Committee](#)

Update on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Requirements

From 2023, the RANZCP became a CPD Home and is now required to align mandatory CPD requirements with the Medical Board of Australia and AHPRA accreditation standards. The CPD environment has evolved since our earlier response.

In this context, the College is currently reviewing all mandatory high-level CPD content, including potential options for mandatory family violence training, through its Fellowship and CPD governance structures. We will:

- Ensure any such training meets the new AHPRA -recognised standards for accredited CPD homes
- Consider and explore occupation-specific CPD activities in partnership with specialist services and other professional bodies (e.g. APS, RACGP)
- Consider opportunities to integrate this material into risk assessment and trauma-informed care training, particularly considering coronial findings from the Heddergott and Fraser cases.

Next Steps

The RANZCP is committed to:

- Reviewing the feasibility and implications of mandatory family violence CPD for psychiatrists as part of our CPD Home obligations
- Exploring further development of relevant CPD modules that reflect best practice, including principles of MARAM and safe inquiry

The RANZCP Victorian Branch is additionally committed to promoting family violence CPD opportunities for psychiatrists within the Victorian jurisdiction in collaboration with the [RANZCP Family Violence Psychiatry Network Committee](#), as well as stakeholders within Victorian specialist services and the Victorian Mental Health and Wellbeing System

We recognise that psychiatrists can often identify family violence, and welcome further collaboration with coronial and government agencies to strengthen this aspect of psychiatric training and practice.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Stafrace', with a stylized flourish at the end.

A/Prof Simon Stafrace
Chair, RANZCP Victorian Branch

To discuss this further, please contact Jo Balmforth, Policy and Advocacy Advisor, at +61 3 9236 9105 or via ranzcp.vic@ranzcp.org