



Secretary

Department of Health

50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone: 1300 650 172
GPO Box 4057
Melbourne Victoria 3001
www.health.vic.gov.au
DX 210081

BAC-BR-33236

Kate Sanderson
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria

Via e-mail: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Sanderson

Thank you for providing the findings of Coroner Judge Cain dated 25 August 2025 into the death of GFD. I offer my condolences to GFD's family and loved ones.

Judge Cain directed the following recommendation to the Department of Health (the department):

That the Department of Health work with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and all local councils and associated MCHNs to review their policies to ensure that they have all documented processes of follow-up and assessment where a family has previously been engaged with EMCHN and then disengages.

The department maintains an online document called the [Parent, carer and family active engagement practice guideline](#) (the **Practice Guideline**). It outlines best practice for all funded Maternal and Child Health (**MCH**) service providers in Victoria in respect of efforts to promote the continued active engagement of families in accessing MCH services to assess, monitor and support the health, growth and development of children. It is used by all funded MCH service providers as a practical tool for engaging families in MCH programs including the Universal MCH program and Enhanced MCH program.

The department also maintains an online document specific to the Enhanced MCH program (the [Enhanced MCH program guidelines](#)). This document is intended to function as a comprehensive resource for funded MCH services in delivering the Enhanced MCH program, rather than a guide for active engagement.

To implement Judge Cain's recommendation, the department will reconvene the working group that developed the Practice Guideline. This working group was chaired by the Principal MCH Nurse Adviser at Safer Care Victoria and included representatives from the Municipal Association of Victoria. It also included MCH service leaders and clinicians representing a diversity of Victorian MCH service providers, including metropolitan and regional local councils, as well as Aboriginal community-led service providers.

In light of GFD's matter, the working group will be specifically tasked to ensure that the Practice Guideline provides clear guidance on recommended documented processes for follow-up and assessment where a family has previously been engaged with an Enhanced MCH program and then disengages.

Once the department and working group have reviewed and updated the Practice Guideline, the department will reissue it to all funded MCH services in Victoria via the MCH sector newsletter and direct email communications.

I trust this response is of assistance to the Court.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jenny Atta', written over a light blue grid background.

Jenny Atta PSM

Secretary

28/11/2025