



Secretary

Department of Health

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Kate Bryant
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria

Via e-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Bryant

COR 2023 2229 – Finding into death following inquest

Thank you for providing the finding of Coroner Simon McGregor dated 3 September 2025 in relation to the death of Olivia Alexandra Evans, who died on 28 April 2023. I offer my condolences to her family and loved ones.

Coroner McGregor made one recommendation directed to the Victorian Government:

Whilst I commend the Victorian Government for developing the Victorian Eating Disorders Strategy 2024-2031, I recommend that they commit funding to ensure the development of at-home meal support programs designed specifically for families with children or young people suffering from eating disorders. Such programs should adopt a mental health led response to deliver holistic treatment and strengthen the support to parents or carers.

The Department of Health (the department) is responsible for the Victorian Eating Disorders Strategy 2024-2031. While commitment of any future funding is a matter for the Victorian Government, I note that the 2024-2025 Victorian State Budget allocated \$31 million for eating disorders. This included funding over three years for Alfred Health and Austin Health to deliver the In-Home Intensive Early Engagement and Treatment Program for young people with eating disorders (in-home program).

The in-home program is designed to deliver mental health-led, holistic care in the home, with a strong emphasis on mealtime support, nutritional management, and coaching for families and carers. Key features of the in-home program include:

- Multidisciplinary care teams comprising clinicians, dietitians, peer workers and psychiatrists.
- Individualised care plans developed collaboratively with the young person and their caregiver.
- Three phases of care to support different stages of recovery: Step-in, Step-down and Step-up.
- Intensive in-home support, including home visits from members of the care team to avoid admission or re-admission to hospital.

- Family-focused initiatives such as coaching and peer support to strengthen the role of caregivers.

Since launching the in-home program, Alfred Health has supported over 50 young people with outcomes including reduced hospital re-admissions and successful transitions into community care. Austin Health has integrated this program into existing case management teams, enabling continuity of care and strong engagement from families and clinical staff.

I trust this response is of assistance to the Court.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Jenny Atta', written in a cursive style.

Jenny Atta PSM

Secretary

01/12/2025