



Department of Health

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Kate Bryant
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria

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

Dear Ms Bryant

Thank you for providing the findings of Coroner Dimitra Dubrow dated 29 May 2026 (COR COR 2022 004878) into the death of Baby R. I offer my condolences to Baby R's family and loved ones.

Coroner Dubrow made the following recommendation to SaferCare Victoria (SCV):

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Safer Care Victoria and Australian College of Midwives review this finding with a view to consider how guidance documents relating to maternity care can be streamlined, be more consistent and cross referenced to assist in providing clear guidance to all practitioners providing maternity care, women and their families and the public.

SCV accepts the Coroner's recommendation.

SCV is the steward of the following guidelines relating to maternity care:

1. ['Homebirth – Clinical Guidance'](#) (May 2021), SCV;
2. ['Care during labour and birth – Clinical Guidance'](#) (November 2019), SCV; and
3. ['Birth after caesarean – Maternity eHandbook – Clinical Guidance'](#) (November 2018), SCV.

SCV is currently in the process of reviewing the *Care during labour and birth* and *Birth after caesarean* guidelines, with review scheduled for completion by late 2026. As part of this process, consideration is being given to how these guidelines may be streamlined, thereby giving effect to the Coroner's recommendation.

As the Coroner noted in her finding, the largely separate remits of the organisations named in the recommendation will impact the extent to which guidance documents in relation to maternity care can be safely cross referenced with each other. Nonetheless, SCV will consider whether this is possible in its future review processes, and I note that the department's Chief Midwife, the Chief Midwife of the Australian College of Midwives, and the President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have planned a meeting to discuss the consistency and streamlining of guidance documents.

I trust this response is of assistance to the Court.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Louise McKinlay', written in a cursive style.

Louise McKinlay
Chief Executive Officer
Safer Care Victoria

31 / 08 / 2026