



Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Children
Minister for Disability

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Kate Sanderson
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006
By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Sanderson

Investigation into the death of 'JNY' (COR 2023 003518)

I refer to your email of 27 April 2026 providing a copy of State Coroner Judge Liberty Sanger's Finding without inquest into the death of 'JNY' and recommendations to the Minister for Disability and the Victorian Government.

I acknowledge the distressing circumstances leading up to the death of JNY outlined in the finding, and I extend my sincere condolences to his family and loved ones for their loss.

I provide the following response on behalf of the Victorian Government, to recommendations 2 to 8 which fall within the remit of the Disability portfolio. I understand that the Department of Justice and Community Safety has provided a response in relation to Recommendation 1.

I note that Judge Sanger's recommendations in the matter of JNY align with recommendations made in relation to adult safeguarding in prior coroner's findings. I understand, as Judge Sanger referenced in her findings, that State Coroner Judge John Cain first made adult safeguarding related recommendations on 26 February 2025 in his finding without inquest into the death of CFT (recommendations 4 to 10).

I note Judge Sanger also made adult safeguarding recommendations in her 18 November 2025 findings without inquest into the death of JZA (recommendations 2 to 8). I am aware the Secretary of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing responded to the findings of CFT and JZA on 2 June 2025 and 23 February 2026, respectively, noting these recommendations were under consideration.

I confirm that Judge Sanger's recommendations 2 to 8 in the finding without inquest into the death of JNY, require further consideration. The recommendations raise significant and complex policy issues and would require legislative change and significant investment to implement. Given this, the recommendations will need to be progressed and considered by

government through established decision-making processes, including the annual budget process.

The Victorian Government is committed to protecting service users from harm and neglect, and to improving the safeguarding framework so that all Victorians with vulnerabilities can live in safety and with dignity. This includes through considering and responding to the Royal Commission into Violence and Exploitation of People with Disability (Disability Royal Commission) which made several recommendations relating to safeguarding, regulation and complaints functions.

The Victorian Government continues to work alongside the Commonwealth Government and the other states and territories through the Disability Reform Ministerial Council to consider specialist and nationally consistent reform options in response to these recommendations to safeguard and support at-risk adults. This work is ongoing.

The Victorian Government also currently has several initiatives in place to prevent and respond to elder abuse, including programs focused on raising awareness and encouraging connectedness in communities. For example, eight elder abuse prevention networks deliver local action to raise awareness of elder abuse and prevent it from happening using a primary prevention approach. These networks are comprised of community groups, organisations or businesses that work with or provide services to older people.

On 15 June 2026, the Victorian Government launched *Respecting and Valuing Older People: Victoria's Primary Prevention of Elder Abuse Framework Handbook*. It supports professionals to plan action that addresses elder abuse at its root, informed by emerging and available evidence. The framework is Victoria's first dedicated primary prevention framework for elder abuse, and forms part of the Victorian Government's prevention of elder abuse commitments in *Until every Victorian is safe: Third rolling action plan to end family and sexual violence 2025–27*.

The Victorian Government is also funding:

- The design and implementation of the Elder Abuse Capability Development Program, which will build the capacity of specialist family violence workers to identify and respond appropriately to elder abuse.
- A free, online Elder Abuse Learning Hub for professionals working with older people.
- Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria, to raise awareness of elder abuse in multicultural communities.
- Seniors Rights Victoria to deliver a statewide elder abuse helpline and community legal centre for older people.
- The Orange Door, which is an accessible community entry point that provides information and support to people of all ages experiencing or choosing to use family violence, and children, young people and families seeking parenting and wellbeing support.
- Safe Steps to provide frontline specialist family violence services for victim survivors, including outside of business hours responses to all victim survivors.

Since the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing's response to State Coroner Cain's recommendations in the matter of CFT, the Victorian Government introduced the Social Services Regulation Amendment (Child Safety, Complaints and Worker Regulation) Bill 2025 into Parliament on 12 November 2025. This Bill sought to increase protections for children and people with disability and to merge the functions of the Victorian Disability Worker Commission and Disability Services Commissioner with the Social Services Regulator, simplifying disability regulation and creating a 'one stop shop' for users of state-funded disability services. These planned reforms were highlighted in the department's response to former State Coroner Cain's Finding without inquest into the death of CFT.

The Parliament did not support the proposed reforms in relation to disability oversight in the Bill, so the Government withdrew these aspects to ensure the passage of the child safety reforms also included in that Bill, before the end of last year. The government remains committed to achieving a "no wrong door" approach to oversight and complaints handling within the disability sector.

I trust this information assists and would like to again thank Judge Sanger for her comprehensive investigation into the death of JNY.

Yours sincerely



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28/6/28

Cc:
Chris Barrett,
Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Emma Cassar,
Secretary, Department of Justice and Community Safety