



Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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CSEC-260600163

Ms Mikaela Meggetto
Coroner's Registrar
Coroner's Court of Victoria

By email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Meggetto

Finding without inquest into the death of 'AT' – COR 2024 007361

I write in response to your letter, dated 10 June 2026, which enclosed a copy of Coroner McGregor's findings into the passing of AT, and recommendation 2 made to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (the department) and Victoria Police. The department has met with representatives from Victoria Police in relation to this recommendation. I note Victoria Police will respond to you separately.

Recommendation 2:

That the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and Victoria Police work together to explore opportunities for updating information sharing protocols so that relevant firearm licensing data can be made available to improve risk assessments for Child Protection and family violence investigations.

Response:

The department accepts the intent of the recommendation and considers it has been met through existing legislation, frameworks, procedures and practice guidelines. These are outlined in detail below.

Information sharing schemes

The Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS) and Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) allow Victoria Police and Child Protection, as prescribed information sharing entities (ISE), to share information.

The CISS authorises prescribed organisations to share information for the purpose of promoting a child's wellbeing or safety, including but not limited to the context of family violence.

The FVISS enables ISEs to proactively share information relevant to the assessment and management of family violence risk and respond to requests to share information from other

ISEs under the FVISS. Additionally, Child Protection is prescribed as a Risk Assessment Entity (RAE) under the FVISS and can share and request information for both assessment and protection purposes. A protection purpose enables information sharing where it is unclear who poses a risk of family violence, and to assess the parties and determine risk management actions.

Protecting Children Protocol between the Secretary of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care (ACAC) providers and Victoria Police (the Protocol)

In response to the recommendation a review was undertaken of the protocol, which identified the following components relevant to the recommendation:

- Section 8 – Information Sharing (overview) stipulates the *Children, Youth and Families Act (2005) (CYFA)* authorises collection, use and disclosure of personal information for the performance or exercise of a protective intervenor's statutory duties and functions as per s.192 CYFA. As Victoria Police are both protective intervenors and information holders under the CYFA, this enables the free exchange of information in child protection matters with Child Protection and ACAC providers.
- Section D8 – Child Protection can request information from Victoria Police if they are aware of safety issues when attending a home, including warnings about firearms.
- Appendix I: Information sharing. Child Protection may request information from Victoria Police as 'information holders', when investigating a protective intervention report (s.192 CYFA). 'Information holders' may respond by providing the information requested by Child Protection.
- Appendix F.2. Risk assessment and risk management reports – L17, outlines the process for Victoria Police to complete and submit L17 reports to Child Protection if there is a significant concern for the safety and welfare of the children of the victim of family violence. L17 reports include weapons and firearms related questions.

The department considers that the protocol provides sufficient guidance regarding information exchange between Victoria Police and Child Protection, which is complemented by policy and practice settings set out in further detail below.

Child Protection policy and practice advice

Policy, as documented in the publicly available Child Protection Manual (the Manual) requires child protection practitioners to complete a L17 family violence portal historical search when the essential information category of family violence is selected. L17 reports include firearm license and weapons information.

The SAFER Children framework, which is the risk assessment approach for Victorian Child Protection practitioners, provides guidance to child protection practitioners about gathering information regarding the adult perpetrator of family violence, including access to weapons.

SAFER incorporates the Multi Agency Risk Assessment and Management framework (MARAM). The MARAM Practice Guides require Child Protection practitioners to consider use of and access to weapons as part of the family violence risk assessment. Specifically, access to weapons is identified as a common suicide risk factor and access to weapons is associated with increased risk of suicide. Where the person has previously made attempts to suicide, professionals are guided to explore the presence of any weapons in the home, or ideation and/or plans involving use of weapons.

Additionally, Appendix 6 of the MARAM practice guides provides detailed guidance to professionals in recognising suicide risk in the context of adult people using violence and emphasises the importance of understanding suicide risk in the context of family violence.

I trust this information is of assistance. If you require further information, please contact [REDACTED], via [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Peta McCammon PSM
Secretary

31/08/2026