



IN THE CORONERS COURT
OF VICTORIA
AT MELBOURNE

COR 2024 003425

FINDING INTO DEATH FOLLOWING INQUEST

Form 37 Rule 63(1)

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

Inquest into the Death of Farhad Jamal

Delivered On: 13 May 2026

Delivered At: Coroners Court of Victoria, 65 Kavanagh Street,
Southbank

Hearing Dates: 13 May 2026

Findings of: Judge Liberty Sanger, State Coroner

Counsel Assisting the Coroner: Ms Jess Syrjanen, Senior Coroner's Solicitor

Chief Commissioner of Police: Ms Abbie O'Sullivan, Victorian Government Solicitor's
Office

Keywords

Missing person; long-term missing person; undetermined
cause of death

INTRODUCTION

1. Farhad Jamal was 36 years old when he disappeared on or after 29 April 2009. At the time of his disappearance, he was believed to be living in Bentleigh East, Victoria.
2. Farhad was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, to parents Rabia and Ainouden Jamal, and had three brothers, Najib, Mirwise and Shafiqullah. Jamal and his family left Afghanistan in 1991 due to the war and lived in Pakistan for two years. One of Farhad's uncles was living in Australia and in 1993, was able to sponsor Farhad, his parents and his brothers to migrate to Australia, arriving in July 1993.¹
3. Upon arriving in Australia, the family stayed with relatives for some time, until they were able to start renting their own home in Preston. Farhad started learning English and regularly attended the gym. Najib recalled that his brother loved sports and exercising. Farhad initially secured a job at a restaurant in Brunswick or Fitzroy.²
4. In about 1997, Farhad left the family home, and his family were unsure where he was living. This coincided with Farhad going out to nightclubs regularly and starting to work as a security guard. During this time, Farhad's family believed he was drinking, using illicit substances and partying all the time.³
5. In about 2003 or 2004, Farhad started working as a tradesperson, purchased a van and tools. He worked for a company where he learnt plastering, carpentry and other trades. His family noted that during this time, Farhad was working hard, and he started visiting his family members regularly. His family encouraged him to continue working hard and to stay away from the club/party scene.⁴
6. In his 30s, Farhad got married, however his family were unaware of the marriage. Najib recalled that it was a small ceremony in an Islamic Mosque, however he did not believe the marriage was registered in Victoria. Najib stated that he only met Farhad's wife once. Farhad

¹ Coronial Brief (CB), Statement of Najib Jamal dated 10 June 2024, 4-1.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid, 4-2, 4-3.

⁴ Ibid.

and his wife purchased a townhouse in Coburg North but later sold it. Najib believed that the pair started to separate shortly after the home was sold.⁵

Police involvement

7. Farhad's first involvement with police was in 1997, which continued throughout his life. In 2006, Farhad was incarcerated for family violence, firearm, dishonesty and assault-related offences.⁶
8. At the time of Farhad's disappearance, he had outstanding court matters in relation to the following incidents:
 - a) Alleged criminal damage that occurred at the Vineyard Nightclub on 17 January 2008.
 - b) Alleged aggravated burglary and rape on 11 March 2008.
 - c) Alleged assault that occurred while incarcerated at the Melbourne Custody Centre on 6 July 2008.⁷
9. A Magistrate bailed Farhad on 28 August 2008 in relation to the aggravated burglary and rape charges. His bail conditions required him to reside at an address in Epping and report daily to the Epping Police Station. On 9 November 2008, Farhad was formally committed to stand trial for the aggravated burglary and rape charges and was bailed to attend the County Court of Victoria on 3 March 2009.⁸ In November 2008, Farhad also applied to vary his bail conditions, as he commenced living in Clayton. He was required to report to the Oakleigh Police Station instead.
10. Farhad's bail was varied again on 3 March 2009 to reside at the Gunn Island Hotel in Middle Park and to report to the South Melbourne Police Station. He applied for another variation in April 2009, to reflect his new residential address being 280 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne.⁹

⁵ Ibid, 4-4, 4-5.

⁶ CB, Statement of Detective Senior Sergeant Maurice Ryan (**D/S/Sgt Ryan**) dated 24 December 2024, 5-2.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid, 5-3.

THE PURPOSE OF A CORONIAL INVESTIGATION

11. The role of a coroner is to independently investigate reportable deaths to establish, if possible, identity, medical cause of death, and surrounding circumstances. Surrounding circumstances are limited to events which are sufficiently proximate and causally related to the death. The purpose of a coronial investigation is to establish the facts, not to cast blame or determine criminal or civil liability.
12. Under the Act, coroners also have the important functions of helping to prevent deaths and promoting public health and safety and the administration of justice through the making of comments or recommendations in appropriate cases about any matter connected to the death under investigation.
13. The coronial investigation of a suspected death differs significantly from most other coronial investigations which commence with the report of a deceased person including the body or remains. In those instances, the focus of the investigation is to determine the identity of the deceased body or remains, using a forensic examination (internal or external) by a forensic pathologist and the subsequent formulation of a cause of death, together with an account of the circumstances in which the death occurred.
14. Without a body or remains, the coronial investigation focusses on the events leading to the disappearance and last recorded/confirmed sighting of an individual; any subsequent contact with family or investigating authority and evidence (or lack thereof) of proof of life, since their disappearance.
15. In such cases, the coronial investigation is effectively an exercise in proof of death through the absence of evidence that the particular individual has been alive or active via searches and a series of checks of records held by various authorities and databases.
16. A finding that an individual is deceased, made in the absence of a body or remains, has significant legal consequence. Such a finding is not to be made lightly and requires that the evidence permits me to reach a satisfactory level of comfortability as to facts.

17. Victoria Police assigned Detective Senior Sergeant Maurice Ryan (**D/S/Sgt Ryan**) to be the Coronial Investigator for the investigation of Farhad's disappearance. The Coronial Investigator conducted inquiries on my behalf, including taking statements from witnesses – such as family, the forensic pathologist, treating clinicians and investigating officers – and submitted a coronial brief of evidence.
18. State Coroner, Judge John Cain (as his Honour then was) originally held carriage of this matter, prior to his retirement in August 2025. I assumed carriage of this investigation on 1 September 2025.
19. As Farhad's disappearance may have been the result of a homicide, for which no person(s) has been charged, I held an inquest into his death on 13 May 2026 pursuant to section 52(2)(a) of the Act.
20. This finding draws on the totality of the coronial investigation into the disappearance and suspected death of Farhad Jamal including evidence contained in the coronial brief. Whilst I have reviewed all the material, I will only refer to that which is directly relevant to my findings or necessary for narrative clarity. In the coronial jurisdiction, facts must be established on the balance of probabilities.¹⁰

MATTERS IN RELATION TO WHICH A FINDING MUST, IF POSSIBLE, BE MADE

Circumstances in which the disappearance occurred

21. Najib recalled the last time he saw his brother was at a petrol station on Mahoneys Road, Reservoir in early-2009. Farhad was filling his motorcycle with petrol, and he was with another unknown person. Najib stopped to speak to Farhad at the petrol station and recalled Farhad said, "*the cops are trying to kill me, and they tried to run me over with their car*". Najib

¹⁰ Subject to the principles enunciated in *Briginshaw v Briginshaw* (1938) 60 CLR 336. The effect of this and similar authorities is that coroners should not make adverse findings against, or comments about, individuals unless the evidence provides a comfortable level of satisfaction as to those matters taking into account the consequences of such findings or comments.

told his brother that he was not a threat to anyone, so he did not need to be afraid. Najib recalled that Farhad “*looked well, he was a little bald but was ok*”.¹¹

22. On 3 April 2009, Farhad was convicted of the Vineyard Nightclub criminal damage charge and was placed on a Community Corrections Order (CCO) for 12 months. The conditions of the CCO required Farhad to present to the Carlton Community Correctional Centre (CCC), attend drug/alcohol treatment and complete 100 hours of community work, commencing 2 May 2009. Farhad attended the Carlton CCC as required on 3 April 2009 and confirmed his address was 280 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne.¹²
23. On 27 April 2009, Farhad attended the Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO), as part of the drug/alcohol treatment condition of his CCO.¹³
24. On 28 April 2009, a purchase was made with Farhad’s EFTPOS card at the Aldi Supermarket on Market Street, South Melbourne. At the time, card purchases could only be made with a PIN code (‘Tap & Go’ technology was not possible at the time). This was the last purchase that was made with Farhad’s EFTPOS card.¹⁴
25. On 29 April 2009, Farhad advised Carlton CCC that he had moved to Bentleigh East.¹⁵
26. Farhad failed to attend his scheduled community work on 2 May 2009. He also failed to attend again on 9 May 2009 and did not report to Moorabbin CCC on 12 May 2009.¹⁶
27. On 25 June 2009, Moorabbin CCC staff documented that they had attempted to call Farhad, left him messages, and sent him letters, however, did not receive any response. They sought permission to commence breach proceedings.¹⁷
28. There have been no confirmed sightings or conversations with Farhad after 29 April 2009.

¹¹ CB, Statement of Najib Jamal dated 10 June 2024, 4-3.

¹² CB, Statement of D/S/Sgt Ryan dated 24 December 2024, 5-2, 5-3.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ CB, Exhibit 34, Community Correctional Services records, 34-26, 34-27.

FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS

Missing persons report

29. Farhad's family noted that Farhad "*would always come and go, and [they] wouldn't see him for months*". When he disappeared in late-April 2009, his family were not initially concerned and did not report it to police immediately, noting that he usually returned after periods of absence.¹⁸
30. About a year after Farhad disappeared, his family thought it was unusual that he had not returned, so they started asking their family and friends. No-one had seen Farhad or spoken to him.¹⁹

Initial police investigation

31. At some time between 2 May 2009 and August 2009, Detective Senior Constable Sharyn Bell (**DSC Bell**), who was the informant for the aggravated burglary and rape charge, attended 280 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne. DSC Bell spoke to the occupant who advised that Farhad moved out and did not provide a forwarding address.²⁰
32. DSC Bell attended 26 Bradford Street, Bentleigh East in August 2009 and observed a 'For Sale' sign at the front of the property. DSC Bell spoke to the owner of the property who advised that sometime in May 2009, Farhad wanted to rent the property but could not provide the bond. The owner believed that Farhad was living out of his car, and he asked the owner if he could leave some of his belongings in the garage of the Bradford Street home. The owner consented, and some of those belongings were still at the Bradford Street home.²¹

Subsequent police investigation

33. On 9 April 2021, D/S/Sgt Ryan became aware of an intelligence holding submitted on 22 February 2019. This intelligence stated:

¹⁸ CB, Statement of Najib Jamal dated 10 June 2024, 4-4.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ CB, Statement of D/S/Sgt Ryan dated 24 December 2024, 5-3.

²¹ Ibid.

- a) Farhad was believed to have been murdered about nine years ago (~2009).
 - b) A man named Perparim Gruda was allegedly involved in the murder.²²
34. D/S/Sgt Ryan officially recorded Farhad as a missing person on 12 April 2021. The next day, he spoke to Farhad’s family who confirmed they had not seen or heard from Farhad since 2008 or 2009. They explained that they made attempts to locate Farhad during this time and attended the Reservoir Police Station on two occasions to make enquiries about his whereabouts. Farhad was not officially reported as missing on these occasions, potentially due to a miscommunication or misunderstanding.²³

Police intelligence holdings

35. D/S/Sgt Ryan noted that Victoria Police’s intelligence holdings about Farhad were relatively limited, and most reports were uncorroborated/unverified.
- a) In 2008, Farhad was in a relationship with a woman, however the relationship ended in about February 2008. In March 2008, the woman made a rape allegation against Farhad (as noted above).²⁴
 - b) On 7 January 2009, an associate named MO²⁵ was reportedly avoiding Farhad over a “*very large drug debt and [would] pay to have [Farhad] murdered*”.²⁶
 - c) On 13 March 2009, a vehicle rented by Farhad was parked in a parking spot belonging to his former girlfriend’s associate, UHA²⁷. Farhad was observed at UHA’s home with a woman of Asian descent. All three were observed leaving in a vehicle together.²⁸

²² Ibid, 5-1.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid, 5-4.

²⁵ I have elected to use a pseudonym for this person’s identity.

²⁶ CB, Statement of D/S/Sgt Ryan dated 24 December 2024, 5-4.

²⁷ I have elected to use a pseudonym for this person’s identity.

²⁸ CB, Statement of D/S/Sgt Ryan dated 24 December 2024, 5-4.

- d) On 6 April 2009, MO was allegedly involved in high-level drug trafficking and Farhad sought him over a large drug debt.²⁹
- e) On 15 May 2009 an information report was submitted which suggested Farhad was “actively selling drugs of dependence”.³⁰
- f) On 27 November 2009 an information report was submitted advising that on 11 November 2009, three offenders attended a property in Fawkner and allegedly shot a fourth man. The intended victim was MO due to a large drug debt allegedly owed by MO to another associate.³¹

Identified associates

- 36. At the time of Farhad’s disappearance, Farhad was believed to be associating with several people including Perparim Gruda, MO, UHA and others.³²
- 37. In April 2021, D/S/Sgt Ryan spoke to some of Farhad’s associates:
 - a) One associate advised that he last saw Farhad in 2008 or 2009 and he heard some rumours about what happened to Farhad but was unsure of his whereabouts.³³
 - b) Khalid Wardak (Farhad’s cousin) said he last saw Farhad 12 years earlier (2009). Farhad stayed with Mr Wardak for about three months when he needed an address for his bail conditions. Mr Wardak believed Farhad was “mixing with bad people” and once came to his home in the company of two men.³⁴
 - c) Another associate stated that he was good friends with Farhad before he (the associate) was incarcerated, but lost contact with him while he was in prison. This associate was released from prison in 2013, after Farhad disappeared.³⁵

²⁹ Ibid, 5-5.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid, 5-5, 5-6.

³³ Ibid, 5-7.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

d) A third associate stated that he trained Farhad at a boxing gym in Abbotsford and that Farhad “*had a bad temper*”. The associate explained that he last saw Farhad when he was living with a woman in South Melbourne.³⁶

38. In October 2021, Detective Senior Constable Georgia Herbert (**DSC Herbert**) attended UHA’s home and spoke to him about Farhad’s disappearance. UHA stated:

a) Farhad was a mate, however they “*fell out a bit towards the end*”. UHA stated that no one had heard from him and believed that Farhad had been murdered.³⁷

b) When Farhad was in prison, he allegedly threatened a man named ‘Rocky’, ‘Rock’ or ‘Rocko’. UHA described ‘Rocky’ as short and stocky, of Albanian descent and lived in the western suburbs of Melbourne.³⁸

c) UHA believed that Farhad was “*somewhere in the bush*” but was unsure of his precise location. He noted that ‘Rocky’ had been staying at a farm somewhere in the country at the time.³⁹

39. D/S/Sgt Ryan invited UHA to review a photo board comprising 12 photographs of males. UHA identified photograph 9 as being ‘Rocky’. This photograph was of Mr Gruda.⁴⁰

40. Additionally in October 2021, DSC Herbert spoke to Farhad’s former girlfriend, who made a rape allegation against him. She was distraught by the police contact and stated that she did not want to assist the police investigation.⁴¹

41. In November 2021, D/S/Sgt Ryan spoke to one of Farhad’s former associates, who advised that he had not heard anything about Farhad’s whereabouts, however believed that Farhad “*went missing because of the rape investigation*”. The associate noted that UHA and another

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid, 5-8.

³⁸ Ibid, 5-9.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

associate were the closest people to Farhad. Farhad was also reportedly “*hanging around*” with a young man of Macedonian appearance.⁴²

42. In May 2024, D/S/Sgt Ryan spoke to further associates of Farhad:

- a) One associate stated that he “*vaguely recall[ed]*” Farhad and had “*no idea what happened to him*”.⁴³
- b) A woman who was previously in a relationship with Mr Gruda. She advised that she had never heard of Farhad.⁴⁴
- c) Another associate remembered Farhad but was unsure what happened to Farhad. He assumed that Farhad fled overseas. The associate had never heard of Mr Gruda and had never heard any rumours about Farhad being murdered, however was not surprised to hear such a rumour.⁴⁵

43. D/S/Sgt Ryan conducted checks with Corrections Victoria and determined that between 21 July and 14 August 2008, both Farhad and Mr Gruda were incarcerated at the Metropolitan Remand Centre.⁴⁶

44. Detective Sergeant Kevin Burke (**D/Sgt Burke**) spoke to Mr Gruda in December 2024. Mr Gruda stated that he met Farhad when they were incarcerated at the Melbourne Assessment Prison. After Mr Gruda was released, he became friends with Farhad. He noted that Farhad lived in many locations after being released from prison and was “*using a bit of ice*”.⁴⁷

45. D/S/Sgt Ryan was unable to obtain formal statements from any of the associates he spoke with.

Proof of life checks

⁴² Ibid, 5-10.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid, 5-11.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

46. As D/S/Sgt Ryan formed the view that Farhad was likely deceased, he undertook various proof of life checks to determine if he had accessed any banking, phone or government services.

Mobile phones

47. At the time of his disappearance, Farhad was using a mobile phone number ending 431, which was a pre-paid service with Optus. It was registered to Farhad of an Epping address. The service was initiated on 9 September 2008 and was cancelled on 22 March 2010.⁴⁸
48. Due to the passage of time, all call charge records in relation to this number were destroyed by Optus in 2016.⁴⁹

Bank accounts

49. At the time of his disappearance, Farhad held a bank account with NAB. His last transaction was at an Aldi Supermarket in Market Street, South Melbourne on 28 April 2009. NAB closed this account in 2012 as it had not been accessed since April 2009. This bank account listed Farhad's address at 280 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne.⁵⁰
50. D/S/Sgt Ryan checked the Commonwealth Government's website for unclaimed money⁵¹ and determined that Farhad had an unclaimed amount of \$2,249.90 from NAB.⁵² On 30 May 2024, NAB advised that it did not hold any recent or active accounts for Farhad.⁵³
51. Victoria Police also conducted checks with various Australian banks, to see if they currently (or previously) held any accounts for Farhad. On 30 May 2024, the following banks advised that they did not hold records for Farhad:
- a) The Bank of Queensland (incorporating Bank of Queensland, ME Bank and Virgin Money Australia);⁵⁴

⁴⁸ Ibid, 5-11.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid, 5-12.

⁵¹ Moneysmart.gov.au.

⁵² CB, Statement of D/S/Sgt Ryan dated 24 December 2024, 5-12.

⁵³ CB, Exhibit 26, Proof of life check with NAB, 26-1.

⁵⁴ CB, Exhibit 16, Proof of life check with Bank of Queensland, 16-1.

- b) The Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Group;⁵⁵
- c) The Commonwealth Bank;⁵⁶
- d) The Great Southern Bank (formerly Credit Union Australia);⁵⁷
- e) ING Bank;⁵⁸
- f) People First Bank (Heritage and People's Choice Limited);⁵⁹
- g) Suncorp;⁶⁰
- h) Westpac.⁶¹

Residential Tenancies Bond Authority (RTBA)

52. Checks with the RTBA revealed that as of 21 May 2024, Farhad did not have any active residential tenancy bonds held by the RTBA. The only records held by the RTBA for Farhad were:

- a) Bond lodged on 22 February 2006 for a property in Springvale; closed on 13 August 2007.
- b) Bond lodged on 12 February 1999 for a property in Thornbury; closed on 28 March 2003.
- c) Bond lodged on 9 December 1998 for a property in Thomastown; closed on 24 February 1999.⁶²

⁵⁵ CB, Exhibit 17, Proof of life check with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Group, 17-1.

⁵⁶ CB, Exhibit 20, Proof of life check with Commonwealth Bank, 20-1.

⁵⁷ CB, Exhibit 22, Proof of life check with Great Southern Bank, 22-1.

⁵⁸ CB, Exhibit 23, Proof of life check with ING Bank, 23-1.

⁵⁹ CB, Exhibit 28, Proof of life check with People First Bank, 28-1.

⁶⁰ CB, Exhibit 31, Proof of life check with Suncorp, 30-1.

⁶¹ CB, Exhibit 32, Proof of life check with Westpac, 32-1.

⁶² CB, Exhibit 30, Bond Summary Advice, 30-1.

53. The bonds for the Springvale and Thornbury properties were registered in Farhad's name alone. The Thomastown property bond was registered in the name of Farhad and one of his brothers.⁶³

Commonwealth services and agencies

54. Services Australia advised that there were no Medicare or Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) claims under Farhad's name from 2 April 2009 to 27 May 2024.⁶⁴

55. According to Australian Border Force's records, Farhad is an Australian citizen and is listed as being onshore. There are no records of him leaving Australia.⁶⁵

56. The Department of Home Affairs advised that Farhad acquired Australian citizenship on 24 July 1996 and held an Australian passport (number ending 685). Farhad's movement records indicate that he last entered Australia on 7 July 2004.⁶⁶

57. The Australian Tax Office (ATO) advised that Farhad last lodged an income tax return on 15 August 2006 and his last Pay As You Go Instalment (PAYGI) annual report was lodged on 22 October 2007. Farhad last called the ATO on 13 September 2007. All correspondence sent from the ATO since 12 January 2008 remained unanswered. The ATO cancelled Farhad's ABN on 2 November 2015, and the ATO received no response to the cancellation.⁶⁷

Interstate agencies

58. On 10 June 2024, the Western Australia Police Force advised that they had no recordings for Farhad.⁶⁸

59. On 11 June 2024, a search of the Northern Territory Housing databases returned no results for Farhad.⁶⁹ That same day, the Northern Territory Police Force advised that they had no

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ CB, Exhibit 24, Services Australia correspondence, 24-1.

⁶⁵ CB, Exhibit 14, Australian Border Force correspondence, 14-1.

⁶⁶ CB, Exhibit 21, Department of Home Affairs correspondence, 21-1.

⁶⁷ CB, Exhibit 15, Australian Tax Office correspondence, 15-1, 15-2.

⁶⁸ CB, Exhibit 8, Proof of life check with WAPF, 8-1.

⁶⁹ CB, Exhibit 27, NT Police correspondence, 27-1.

information in relation to Farhad. This included searches of the Firearms Licence database, their Motor Vehicle Registry, their Correctional Services records and police databases.⁷⁰

60. On 4 July 2024, the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised that there were no records held for Farhad.⁷¹
61. On 21 October 2025, the New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised that there were no records held for Farhad for the period of 1 January 2009 to 21 October 2025.⁷²
62. On 24 October 2025, the Tasmanian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised that there were no records held for Farhad.⁷³
63. On 28 October 2025, the South Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages advised that there were no records for Farhad.⁷⁴

CCTV or photographic evidence

64. D/S/Sgt Ryan advised that there was no CCTV available, due to the delay in Farhad's disappearance being formally reported to police.⁷⁵

Media enquiries

65. On 8 October 2024, Victoria Police published an online media release, seeking information about Farhad's whereabouts. Victoria Police did not receive any information, leads or evidence in relation to this media release.⁷⁶

DNA comparison

⁷⁰ CB, Exhibit 9, Proof of life check with NTPF, 9-2.

⁷¹ CB, Exhibit 19, Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages correspondence, 19-1.

⁷² CB, Exhibit 18, NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages result of search, 18-1.

⁷³ CB, Exhibit 11, Proof of life check with TasPol, 11-2.

⁷⁴ CB, Exhibit 12, Proof of life check with SAPOL, 12-1.

⁷⁵ CB, Statement of D/S/Sgt Ryan dated 24 December 2024, 5-12.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

66. On 16 November 2021, Farhad's mother supplied a DNA sample for inclusion on the Victoria Missing Persons Database. No matches have been obtained to date.⁷⁷

Police conclusion about disappearance

67. D/S/Sgt Ryan opined that Farhad's disappearance was suspicious and considered several possible scenarios:

- a) Farhad was on bail for an alleged aggravated burglary and rape, with the victim reportedly associated with criminal identities and may have met with foul play as a result.
- b) Farhad was allegedly involved in 'standover' activities, particularly in relation to drug trafficking, and may have met with foul play as a result.
- c) Farhad was associating with Mr Gruda at the time of his disappearance. According to other associates, Mr Gruda may have knowledge of Farhad's disappearance.⁷⁸

PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS

68. As a matter of procedural fairness, the Court wrote to Mr Gruda on 13 February 2026 and provided him with the opportunity to respond to the allegations contained within the coronial brief. Mr Gruda applied for a copy of the coronial brief, which was granted. To date, Mr Gruda has not provided any submissions in response to the letter.

FINDING AND CONCLUSION

69. Having investigated the disappearance of Farhad Jamal and having held an inquest on 13 May 2026, I make the following findings pursuant to section 67(1) of the Act:

- a) the identity of the deceased was Farhad Jamal, born 2 May 1972;

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid, 5-13.

- b) the death occurred on or after 29 April 2009 at an unknown location from unknown causes; and
- c) the death occurred in the circumstances described above.

70. Having considered the various proof of life checks and investigations which have not revealed any evidence of Farhad's whereabouts, I am satisfied to the requisite standard that he is deceased. Although Farhad's family experienced periods in which he did not contact or communicate with them, he always returned at some point, and these periods usually lasted in the order of weeks to months.
71. I note that Farhad was allegedly involved in serious criminal offending, and it is possible that his disappearance and death is related to this alleged offending. In the context of associating with criminal associates, coupled with the fact that his remains have never been recovered, it is possible that Farhad may have died by way of accident, misadventure or homicide.
72. I am unable to determine with certainty how or when Farhad died. It is likely that Farhad died on or after 29 April 2009, when he was last confirmed to be alive and communicating with CCC.
73. Sadly, due to the delay in the formal reporting of Farhad's disappearance, many ordinary avenues of investigation were no longer available, once Victoria Police became involved. I make no criticism of Farhad's family and note that it was not unusual for Farhad to disappear for weeks or months at a time, only to resurface later without incident. It is therefore understandable why they were not immediately alarmed when he first disappeared in April 2009.
74. Having considered all the available evidence, I am satisfied that there are no further avenues of investigation that I can pursue, that might elicit further information about how Farhad died, or the whereabouts of his remains.
75. In reaching this conclusion, I note that if new facts and circumstances become available in the future, section 77 of the Act allows any person to apply to the Court for an order that some or

all of these findings be set aside. Any such application would be assessed on its merits at that time.

I convey my sincere condolences to Farhad's family for their loss.

Pursuant to section 73(1B) of the Act, I order that this finding be published on the Coroners Court of Victoria website in accordance with the rules.

I direct that a copy of this finding be provided to the following:

Najib Jamal, Senior Next of Kin

Chief Commissioner of Police (C/- Victorian Government Solicitor's Office)

Detective Senior Sergeant Maurice Ryan, Coronial Investigator

Signature:



Judge Liberty Sanger, State Coroner

Date: 13 May 2026



NOTE: Under section 83 of the *Coroners Act 2008* ('the Act'), a person with sufficient interest in an investigation may appeal to the Trial Division of the Supreme Court against the findings of a coroner in respect of a death after an inquest. An appeal must be made within 6 months after the day on which the determination is made, unless the Supreme Court grants leave to appeal out of time under section 86 of the Act.
