



IN THE CORONERS COURT
OF VICTORIA
AT MELBOURNE

COR 2026 000089

FINDING INTO DEATH WITHOUT INQUEST

Form 38 Rule 63(2)

*Section 67 of the **Coroners Act 2008***

Findings of:	Coroner Simon McGregor
Deceased:	Barbara Dorothy Cameron
Date of birth:	5 March 1937
Date of death:	5 January 2026
Cause of death:	1a : INFECTIVE COMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM INJURIES SUSTAINED IN LOW SPEED MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENT ON A BACKGROUND OF MULTIPLE MEDICAL COMORBIDITIES
Place of death:	The Alfred 55 Commercial Road Melbourne Victoria 3004
Keywords:	Motor vehicle accident;

INTRODUCTION

1. On 5 January 2026, Barbara Dorothy Cameron was 88 years old when she died in a motor vehicle accident. At the time of her death, Barbara lived alone at 1/15 Red Bluff Street, Black Rock, Victoria, 3193.
2. Barbara was born and raised in Preston, Victoria with her three siblings. She met her initial partner, Nils Proctor, whom she had four children with. Barbara separated from Nils and re-married Donald Cameron in 1982. The relationship lasted five years and Barbara remained single and independent after 1987.
3. Barbara's treating General Practitioner, Dr Jill Christie, confirmed that Barbara was last seen on 16 October 2025 and reported progressive mobility issues as a result of her neurodegenerative disorder and lower back pain. Barbara had historically been diagnosed with multiple medical conditions including hypertension, rheumatoid arthritis, ischaemic heart disease, polymyalgia, asthma and coronary angioplasty.¹

THE CORONIAL INVESTIGATION

4. Barbara's death was reported to the coroner as it fell within the definition of a reportable death in the *Coroners Act 2008* (**the Act**). Reportable deaths include deaths that are unexpected, unnatural or violent or result from accident or injury.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Victoria Police assigned Senior Constable Morgan Buisse to be the Coronal Investigator for the investigation of Barbara's death. The Coronal Investigator conducted inquiries on my

¹ *Coronial Brief*, Statement of Dr Jill Christie.

behalf, including taking statements from witnesses – such as family, the forensic pathologist, treating clinicians and investigating officers – and submitted a coronial brief of evidence.

8. This finding draws on the totality of the coronial investigation into the death of Barbara Dorothy Cameron 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.²
9. In considering the issues associated with this finding, I have been mindful of Barbara's human rights to dignity and wellbeing, as espoused in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*, in particular sections 8, 9 and 10.

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

Circumstances in which the death occurred

10. On 29 October 2025 at around 4:39 pm, Barbara was driving her 2010 Toyota Yaris sedan to the Vinnies Store at 216-264 Wickham Road, Moorabbin. Barbara parked her vehicle in an off-street car parking spot that was on a slight gradient from North to South.³ As Barbara alighted, the vehicle started rolling slowly backwards, Barbara was caught in the door space and was dragged approximately eight metres down the driveway until the vehicle came to rest in the east bound lane of Wickham road.⁴
11. Several witnesses rushed to Barbara's aid, she was lying on her back and conscious at the time.⁵ Emergency services were dispatched to the scene and Ambulance paramedics arrived around 4:44 pm. Paramedics were able to stabilise Barbara, and she was transported to the Alfred Hospital with lower leg injuries and arterial bleeding.⁶
12. Police arrived on scene at around 5:03 pm and started processing the scene. Attending police member Senior Constable Carl Robertson reviewed the available evidence and noted that:⁷

² 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.

³ *Coronial Brief*, Exhibit 2 – CCTV footage from Vinnie's Op Shop.

⁴ *Coronial Brief*, Statement of Hernan Manuel Ugarte.

⁵ *Ibid*.

⁶ *Coronial Brief*, Statement of Paramedic Mikaela Moore.

⁷ *Coronial Brief*, Statement of Senior Constable Carl Robertson.

- a) Barbara was licensed and her vehicle was registered at the time of the parking incident.
 - b) Barbara's car was road worthy and had no mechanical issues.
 - c) The road conditions were clear; the weather was good and there was no rain; and
 - d) The handbrake and gear selector were all operational and had no faults.
13. Barbara was initially admitted to the Alfred Hospital Emergency Department for treatment at 6:01 pm on 29 October 2025 and was transferred to the Intensive Care Unit on 30 October 2025.⁸
14. On 31 October 2025, Barbara undertook surgery for extensive degloving injuries she sustained to her left lower leg during the car incident on 29 October 2025. Barbara underwent further surgeries on 6 November and 11 November 2025 for fat necrosis and an infected haematoma at her ankle.
15. Between 25 November 2025 and 2 December 2025, Barbara received daily washouts and the application of Vacuum-Assisted Closure (VAC) to her left lower leg degloving injury. On 5 December 2025, Barbara developed a fever and delirium and she was treated with ongoing broad-spectrum antibiotics but between 27-30 December 2025, she failed to demonstrate any clinical improvement and was unable to maintain a sufficient intake of fluid and food to maintain her health. Barbara's treatment team met with her family and confirmed that Barbara was on a palliative trajectory and dying.⁹
16. On 5 January 2026, Barbara passed away at 11:45 am.¹⁰

Identity of the deceased

17. On 5 January 2026, Barbara Dorothy Cameron, born 5 March 1937, was visually identified by their son, Timothy Proctor.
18. Identity is not in dispute and requires no further investigation.

⁸ *Coronial Brief*, Statement of Dr Vincent D'Intini (Alfred Health).

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

Medical cause of death

19. Forensic Pathologist Dr Brian Beer from the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) conducted an external examination on 7 January 2026 and provided a written report of his findings dated 15 January 2026.
20. The post-mortem examination revealed evidence of significant degloving injuries to the left lower leg with surgical debridement both medial and lateral. There was also evidence of infected ulcerating lesion on the right lower leg.
21. A post-mortem CT scan evidenced cardiomegaly with coronary artery calcifications, fatty liver, gallstone and extensive bilateral lung effusions with increased lung markings consistent with infection.
22. Dr Beer provided an opinion that the medical cause of death was 1(a) INFECTIVE COMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM INJURIES SUSTAINED IN LOW SPEED MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENT ON A BACKGROUND OF MULTIPLE MEDICAL COMORBIDITIES and I accept his opinion.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

23. The standard of proof for coronial findings of fact is the civil standard of proof on the balance of probabilities, with the *Briginshaw* gloss or explications.¹¹ Adverse findings or comments against individuals are not to be made with the benefit of hindsight but only on the basis of what was known or should reasonably have been known or done at the time, and only where the evidence supports a finding that they caused or contributed to the death under investigation.
24. Pursuant to section 67(1) of the *Coroners Act 2008* I make the following findings:
 - a) the identity of the deceased was Barbara Dorothy Cameron, born 5 March 1937;

¹¹ *Briginshaw v Briginshaw* (1938) 60 CLR 336 at 362-363: ‘The seriousness of an allegation made, the inherent unlikelihood of an occurrence of a given description, or the gravity of the consequences flowing from a particular finding, are considerations which must affect the answer to the question whether the issues had been proved to the reasonable satisfaction of the tribunal. In such matters “reasonable satisfaction” should not be produced by inexact proofs, indefinite testimony, or indirect inferences...’.

- b) the death occurred on 5 January 2026 at The Alfred, 55 Commercial Road, Melbourne, Victoria, 3004, from 1(a) INFECTIVE COMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM INJURIES SUSTAINED IN LOW SPEED MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENT ON A BACKGROUND OF MULTIPLE MEDICAL COMORBIDITIES; and
- c) the death occurred in the circumstances described above.

25. Having considered all of the evidence, I am satisfied that Barbara's death was due to complications arising from her injuries incurred on 29 October 2025 which resulted from her losing control of her vehicle after failing to properly engage the vehicle's handbrake.

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

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

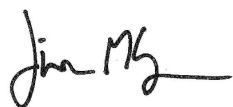
I direct that a copy of this finding be provided to the following:

Timothy Proctor, Senior Next of Kin

Amelia Cameron, Alfred Health

Senior Constable Morgan Buisse, Coronial Investigator

Signature:



Coroner Simon McGregor

Date: 27 July 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 investigation. 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.
