



VICTORIA
POLICE FORCE



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Chief Commissioner of Police

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Coroner Paresa Antoniadis Spanos
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Subject: Barry Scott Collins – Finding into death with inquest
Court reference: COR 2020 0646
Date of Recommendation: 4 December 2020

Dear Coroner Spanos,

Victoria Police response to recommendation arising from findings into death with inquest of Barry Scott Collins

I refer to correspondence received from the Coroners Court dated 7 December 2020 enclosing your recommendation arising from the findings with inquest into the death of Barry Scott Collins. The position of Victoria Police in response to this recommendation is outlined as follows: -

Recommendation 1:

I recommend that the Chief Commissioner of Police considers introducing a system of regular auditing and oversight of the investigation of long-term missing persons cases to ensure that they are being progressed in as timely and thorough manner as possible and that they are referred to the Coroners Court as suspected deaths as soon as it is appropriate to do so.

The Coroner's recommendation is under consideration by Victoria Police.

The timely resolution of long-term missing persons cases is currently being considered by the owners of the Victoria Police policy on missing persons, the Missing Persons Squad – Crime Command. To date, the Missing Persons Squad have engaged in consultations with the Office of the State Coroner as well as subject matter experts at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine through the Missing Persons Working Group Forum.

In addition, the Long-Term Missing Persons and Unidentified Human Remains Working Group (the Working Group) is currently being established. The scope of the Working Group will include reviewing policy and processes with respect to long-term missing persons and unidentified human remains investigations, identifying opportunities to develop a framework of regular auditing and oversight and assessing options for developing reporting regimes. While the Working Group is yet to be formally established, to date the terms of reference have been drafted and participants identified and consulted.

Victoria Police will continue to work with the Office of the State Coroner and other agencies to identify opportunities for improvement to current practices and policies in respect of long-term missing person investigations.

Yours sincerely,



Shane Patton APM
Chief Commissioner

17/3/21