

5 January 2016

Ms Kate Doherty
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank Victoria 3006

Dear Ms Doherty,

Re: Court ref: 2009 000447 – death of Darcey Freeman

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (“the College”) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 4 November 2015 regarding the death of Darcey Freeman (Court ref: 2009 000447).

The College responds to the recommendation of the Coroner as follows:

Recommendation

“...that the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners consider the introduction of compulsory family violence training for GPs.”

In September 2015, the Federal Government announced a funding boost for GP training to identify and respond to cases of domestic violence. The “Women’s Safety Package to Stop the Violence” specifically includes funding for the development and delivery of specialised training across Australia by the College in conjunction with the Government.

The College has also proposed the introduction of Medicare patient rebates to support a national approach to healthcare delivery for women and children experiencing family violence. These rebates would enable GPs to develop a “Family Health Safety Plan” providing a framework and support for GPs to implement an action plan with their patient, which could include referrals to mother and child and group services.

The College is also currently working with stakeholders to develop adjunct resources, particularly a decision-making pathway for working with perpetrators – an area recognised as needing more attention across the sector.

Should you or the Coroner wish to discuss this further, please contact the RACGP Victoria Faculty on (03) 8699 0468.

Yours sincerely



A/Prof Morton Rawlin
Chair, Victoria Faculty