



## Secretary

Department of Health and Human Services

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Ms Bree Dyson  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Ms Bryson

Thank you for your letter of 4 May 2017 in relation to the investigation and finding without inquest into the death of [REDACTED] (your reference COR 2014004143).

I note Coroner Carlin's recommendation pursuant to section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008* that 'the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services promote research into the underlying reasons for the prevention of sudden death in people with schizophrenia through means such as the multidisciplinary and cross-sectional Mental Illness Research Fund'.

Unfortunately, the Mental Illness Research Fund has been fully allocated and there is no specific funding mechanism to direct research such as has been recommended by Coroner Carlin.

Significant work is currently under way planning government participation in a future research agenda for mental health in Victoria as part of implementing Victoria's 10 Year Mental Health Plan. In the meantime, the Department of Health and Human Services (the department) continues to support and work with many academic and clinical institutions to promote contemporary research into mental illness and treatment.

The department is developing a Physical Health Framework for People with Severe Mental Illness. In partnership with Victoria's clinical mental health service experts, Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council, TANDEM and expert organisations (for example, Quit Victoria, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists), the department will produce a framework that:

- provides clinical mental health services with guidance and resources on optimising physical health care for people with mental illness;
- recognises local, national and international evidence base, expertise and models;
- outlines direction for integration (GP, NDIS, community health, Primary Health Networks);

- delivers buy-in and ownership from Victorian clinical mental health services; and
- aligns to relevant state and national policies and initiatives.

Should future opportunities for funding major research become available, the department will consider the recommendation and how it may be further addressed.

If you would like further information on the development of the Physical Health Framework, please contact Anna Love, Chief Mental Health Nurse on 03 9096 7571 or at [Anna.Love@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:Anna.Love@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Kym Peake**  
Secretary

7/7/2017