

15 March 2018

Ms Avril Diamente  
Coroners Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
Southbank VIC 3006

Dear Ms Diamente,

**Re: Court ref: COR 2014 004205 – Lachlan Black**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 18 December 2017 regarding the death of Lachlan Black (Court ref: COR 2014 004205).

Pursuant to Section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008, the RACGP responds to the recommendation as follows:

### **Recommendation**

***That each of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Royal College of Physicians (Paediatric and Child Health Division) and the Australian College for Emergency Medicine consider the educational opportunities posed by the circumstances of this case in particular in relation to the recognition of the possibility of sepsis despite absence of fever and despite the apparent existence of a viral illness.***

The RACGP has compulsory education requirements in paediatrics for general practice registrars prior to the commencement of community based general practice training. All general practice registrars must do a minimum of 12 weeks of hospital based paediatrics supervised by experienced General Practitioners (GPs). Paediatrics is an integral part of general practice work and part of the continuum of lifelong care provided by GPs.

Forming the centrepiece of the [RACGP Curriculum for Australian General Practice 2016](#) is the Core Skills Unit. Core Skill CS2.2.3 – *Significantly ill* – relates to a term that may be used to describe an individual at any life stage who is at risk of actual or acute potentially life-threatening health problems. Early identification of significant illness managed in line with accepted guidelines can often improve outcomes. CS2.2.3 further states, important critical illnesses can be grouped in a variety of ways, including by age or life stage, such as paediatric presentations, infections (e.g. septic shock).

In addition the RACGP online learning platform *gplearning* provides members with access to a number of child and adolescent education activities, including recognising the seriously ill child.

The Coroner's finding into the death of Lachlan Black and subsequent recommendation will be also referred to the RACGP Specific Interests Child and Young Person's Health Network for consideration in developing education for GPs.

Should you or the Coroner wish to discuss this further, please contact RACGP Victoria on (03) 8699 0303.

Yours sincerely



Dr Cameron Loy  
Chair, RACGP Victoria