



Martin Foley MP

Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing  
Minister for Mental Health  
Minister for Equality  
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Coroner Jacqui Hawkins  
Coroners Court of Victorian  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Coroner Hawkins

I have received a copy of your letter to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Ms Kym Peake, dated 20 February 2017 which enclosed your findings in relation to the death of Ms A (Coroners reference: COR 2016 002418).

All lives lost to overdose are a tragedy for our community. My deepest sympathies go to the family and friends of Ms A who continue to feel the grief of her loss, as do all those impacted by the 456 Victorians who we lost to overdose in 2016. For this reason, the Government remains committed to principles of harm minimisation when tackling alcohol and other drug issues in our communities.

I refer to your first recommendation, namely:

*I recommend that the Honourable Martin Foley MP as Minister for Mental Health take the necessary steps to establish a safe injecting facility trial in North Richmond.*

The Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Joint Investigatory Committee is presently considering these issues as part of their Inquiry into Drug Law Reform. I anticipate that the above recommendation regarding safe injecting facilities will be considered by the Inquiry in depth.

The Committee is due to report back to Parliament on this Inquiry in March 2018 and the Government will await the full recommendations of the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Martin Foley MP