

FORM 37

Rule 60(1)

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

Court Reference: 1895/2010

Inquest into the Death of Carolyn Veronica Dean

Delivered On:	24 January 2011
Delivered At:	Portland
Hearing Dates:	24 January 2011
Findings of:	Jonathan Klestadt
Place of death/Suspected death:	77 Blair St, Portland
SCAU	Prosecutor Sgt Sandra Skilton

FORM 37

Rule 60(1)

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

Court Reference: 1895/2010

In the Coroners Court of Victoria at Portland

I Jonathan Klestadt, Coroner having investigated the death of:

Details of deceased:

Surname: Dean
First name: Carolyn Veronica
*Address: 77 Blair St Portland VIC 3305

AND having held an inquest in relation to this death on 24 January 2011
at Portland

find that the identity of the deceased was Carolyn Veronica Dean
and death occurred *on or about 20/05/2010

at Portland

from

1a Epilepsy

in the following circumstances:

Carolyn Veronica Dean suffered from an intellectual disability and epilepsy, among other less debilitating medical conditions. She resided in a disability support services home run by the Department of Human Services in Blair Street, Portland and had done for approximately ten years prior to her death. The facility caters for seven permanent residents and is staffed by carers at all times. Ms. Dean was able to look after her own needs and is reported to have required only very modest amounts assistance.

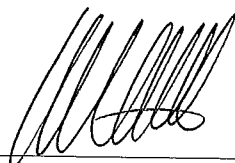
At about 8.00am the morning of Thursday the 20th of May 2010 Ms. Dean was found by staff in the toilet shared by her and another resident. She had last been observed by the night duty carer in her bed at about 10.30pm the previous evening.

It appears that she had gone to the toilet at some time in the morning and had suffered an epileptic seizure whilst seated on the pan. This has caused her to fall forward striking her forehead and nose on the floor causing a significant laceration which bled profusely. In falling she had blocked the inward opening door which had to be lifted off its hinges to gain access to the deceased.

Paramedics were called immediately on discovery of the deceased but were unable to revive her. At autopsy no findings were made which indicated that death was as a result of any natural disease process, despite a familial history of heart disease. It was further the opinion of the pathologist that the trauma observed to the head of the deceased was due to the fall from the toilet. In the circumstances it was the pathologist's opinion that the cause of death was a catastrophic epileptic seizure. In his report to me he states, "Sudden death in epilepsy where no obvious cause is evident....is a well described phenomenon."

I am satisfied that there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death of Ms. Dean, and that her death was as a result of natural causes.

Signature:



Date:

24 10 12011

