

**FORM 37**

Rule 60(1)

**FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST**

*Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008*

**Court reference:** 3545/09

**Inquest into the Death of MICHAEL ALEXANDER LA FRANCHI**

Delivered On: 21 June 2010  
Delivered At: Melbourne  
Hearing Dates: 21 June 2010  
Findings of: JANE HENDTLASS  
Representation: S/C Kelly Ramsay  
Place of death/Suspected death: Western General Hospital

FORM 37

Rule 60(1)

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

*Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008*

**Court reference:** 3545/09

In the Coroners Court of Victoria at Melbourne  
I, JANE HENDTLASS, Coroner

having investigated the death of:

**Details of deceased:**

Surname: LA FRANCHI  
First name: MICHAEL  
Address: 52 Clydesdale Road, Airport West 3042

AND having held an inquest in relation to this death on 21 June 2010  
at Melbourne

find that the identity of the deceased was MICHAEL ALEXANDER LA FRANCHI  
and death occurred on 19th July, 2009

at Western General Hospital, 148 Gordon Street, Footscray 3011

from

1a. PNEUMONIA

in the following circumstances:

1. Michael La Franchi was 58 years old when he died. He lived with four other men in supported residential accommodation. Before moving to Airport West, he had lived at Kew Cottages, at 52 Clydesdale Road in Airport West which was run by the Department of Human Services. Mr La Franchi's case worker was Rose Benedicto.
3. Mr La Franchi's medical history included meningitis causing severe disability and epilepsy. He was confined to a wheel chair and his normal Glasgow Coma Scale was 11. Although non verbal, he understood simple words. All food needed to be vitamised or in the form of thickened drinks. He was regularly prescribed antibiotics for chest infections.
4. On 18 July 2009, Mr La Franchi had been his usual self. At approximately 5.00p.m, staff at Mr La Franchi's home noticed he had become drowsy. They contacted a locum doctor who diagnosed a chest infection and referred Mr la Franchi to hospital.

5. At about 7.00pm on 18 July 2009, Mr La Franchi presented at the Emergency Department at Western Hospital. He was hypertensive and hyperthermic and he was diagnosed with pneumonia caused by aspiration.

6. On 19 July 2009, Mr La Franchi was assessed by the Neurology Registrar after he had suffered three seizures since 7.00a.m. However, his condition continued to deteriorate and he remained drowsy.

8. At 10.37p.m on 19 July 2009, Mr La Franchi died.

9. A recommendation that the medical investigation proceed by way of inspection was granted by the Coroner. The forensic pathologist who inspected the body and the medical records formed the opinion that a reasonable cause of death was pneumonia.

10. Accordingly, I find that Michael La Franchi died of pneumonia.

Signature:

Dr Jane Hendtlass  
Coroner  
21 June 2010

