AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA)

ABN 79 948 978 376

Coroner's Register
Coroner's Court of Victoria
cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir / Madam,

Investigation into the death of Russell McLarty

COR 2006004248

Further to the Coroner's Report of 26 June 2013 into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Russell McLarty, the Board, Council and members of Australian Hotels Association (Victoria) were informed of the Coroner's recommendation in respect of the Coroner's inquiry.

Copy of the advice to AHA (Vic) members of 1 August 2013 is attached.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Kearney
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Hotels Association (Victoria)

22 November 2013

Advice ∎ Support ∎ Network ∎ Influence

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Coroner's Investigation into the death of Russell McLarty

On 7 November 2006 Russell McLarty died at the Alfred Hospital having sustained injuries in the car park of the Caledonian Hotel Warrnambool on 5 November 2006 following a dispute with a person known to him, also being a customer of the hotel.

In the dispute allegedly related to drugs Mr McLarty was hit and upon falling hit his head on the back of a car and then the car park surface.

In an 88 page decision the Coroner expressed concern that an off-duty police officer who was aware of and attended the incident failed to appreciate that Mr McLarty had been assaulted, but rather that he had suffered a medical problem.

As a consequence, hotel staff did not contact the police based on their understanding that the off-duty police officer, who was known to them, had already done so.

Without assigning any blame or responsibility to the licensee and/or his staff, the Coroner recommended that AHA (Vic) inform members of the circumstances of Mr McLarty's death and encourage licensees to always contact police when they become aware that a serious assault has occurred on licensed premises.

Brian Kearney
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Hotels Association (Victoria)
1 August 2013