

13 November 2014

Coroner Peter White
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006



55 Commercial Road
Melbourne Vic 3004
PO Box 315 Prahran
Victoria 3181 Australia
Telephone 03 9076 2000
www.alfred.org.au

Dear Coroner White

Court Reference: 2009/0575 Penrin John Maxworth Halliday

We refer to your recommendation arising from the Inquest into the death of the late Mr Penrin John Maxworth Halliday.

Recommendation

I recommend that the Alfred Hospital's clinical review team undertake a re-evaluation of staffing levels within the Hospital's Cardiothoracic Unit and seek to determine whether and if so how additional staffing and appropriate clinical support should be provided in circumstances where, as in this case, there are insufficient resources available to undertake an urgent non-elective surgical intervention.

Alfred Health Response

Since Mr Halliday's death in 2009 The Alfred's Cardiothoracic Unit has undergone significant change in personnel and work practice. In 2013 a new Head of Unit was appointed to complement the department's 4 full-time and 2 part-time surgeons. This increase in staffing provides better coverage for elective as well as urgent non-elective surgery.

Yours sincerely


Dr Lee Hamley
Executive Director Medical Services, The Alfred
Chief Medical Officer Alfred Health

MEDICAL SERVICES

Dr Lee Hamley
Executive Director Medical Services The
Alfred/Chief Medical Officer Alfred Health
Ph: 9076 3332
Fax: 9076 3918
Email: l.hamley@alfred.org.au