

**INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF JOY APOSTOPOULOS
(CASE NO: COR 2010 2389)
CORONER'S RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECTED AT ALFRED HEATH**

RESPONSE OF ALFRED HEALTH

Coroner's Recommendation 1: *That the Alfred Psychiatry Unit implement a plan ensuring the recording of persons (other than hospital staff) entering and leaving the unit's general ward, when the ward is in locked mode.*

Alfred Health response:

A visitor's sign-in/-out book has been located at the front reception area of the inpatient unit at Alfred Psychiatry between 8am and 5pm for the past four years. Since this inquest recommendation was handed down, visitors have been additionally required to wear identifications stickers. The sign-in/-out book is also now in use at all times.

As well, an additional patient sign-in/-out book has been introduced which requires both the patient and the contact nurse to document their signatures.

Alfred Health intends to trial these new arrangements for twelve months.

Coroner's Recommendation 2: *That hospital staff and ambulance officers ensure an appropriate handover takes place whenever a patient is delivered directly to the Alfred Psychiatric Unit.*

Alfred Health response:

The Alfred Psychiatry Inpatient Unit Nurse Manager has met with an Ambulance Victoria representative in relation to this recommendation.

In principle agreement has been reached regarding implementation of a new procedure to improve the clinical handover between Ambulance Victoria staff and Alfred Psychiatry inpatient staff. This is expected to come into operation no later than 31 May 2013.

