



# Department of Health

Secretary

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1 APR 2014

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Mr Lachlan Broadribb  
Coroners Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000



Dear Mr Broadribb

## **Court reference: COR 2005 581 Wayne Joannou**

I am writing in response to your letter dated 30 January 2014 relating to Coroner Jane Hendtlass' recommendations to the Department of Health in her finding on the death of Mr Wayne Joannou.

### **Recommendation:**

- 1. The Department of Health and the College of General Practitioners should review its advice to addiction physicians in relation to Naltrexone implants to emphasise the social dangers associated with changed mental state and diversion to stimulants which, in the absence of adequate follow-up, can be associated with the procedure.*

### **The Department's response**

The Department of Health does not regulate naltrexone as it is a Schedule 4 poison and does not issue advice in relation to treatment with naltrexone.

The Australian Government Department of Health produces the *Clinical guidelines and procedures for the use of naltrexone in the management of opioid dependence* (Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Aug 2003), which provides authoritative advice to addiction physicians on the use of naltrexone. Accordingly, you may wish to direct Coroner Hendtlass' findings to the Secretary of the Australian Government Department of Health, Professor Jane Holton PSM.

If you require further information please contact Mr Matthew McCrone, Chief Officer, Drugs and Poisons Regulation, on 9096 5066 or email [matthew.mccrone@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:matthew.mccrone@health.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

**Dr Pradeep Philip**  
Secretary