



The Royal Australian
College of General
Practitioners

04 June 2012



Mr Jeff Dart
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
11/222 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Dart

RE: Inquest into the Death of ELSA HARRINGTON
Court Reference: 3525/02

We are writing to you in response to your letters dated 05 March 2012 addressed to Dr Harry Hemley and Dr Zena Burgess PhD regarding the inquest findings, including recommendations, into the death of Elsa Harrington.

Specifically I am responding to recommendation 2 of the report which recommends that 'the Australian Medical Association (AMA Victoria), and the College of General Practitioners collaborate for the purposes of implementing a medical profession and public awareness raising program regarding the risks of accidental paracetamol poisoning as identified by Dr John Lubel.'

The Australian Medical Association (Victoria) and The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Victoria Faculty have met to discuss our response to the recommendation. Below we have outlined the actions that our respective organisations will be undertaking in response to the Coroner's recommendation:

Australian Medical Association (Victoria):

- As noted in the Coroner's report, awareness of this issue has been raised within the medical profession through the article by Dr Lubel in the Medical Journal of Australia (MJA) in 2007. The MJA is the medical journal of the Australian Medical Association.
- AMA Victoria will publish an article highlighting the risks of accidental paracetamol poisoning in VicDoc, the Association's monthly publication, which has a circulation of over 7500 members.
- AMA Victoria will also write to all of the other AMA State organisations to draw their attention to this issue and suggest that they also run a similar warning in their State publications.
- AMA Victoria will discuss this issue at its meeting of its Section of General Practice, AMA Victoria's lead consultative body for General Practitioners to raise their awareness of this issue, for further discussion and possible action.



The Royal Australian
College of General
Practitioners

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners:

- RACGP Victoria Faculty will publish an article highlighting the risks of accidental paracetamol poisoning in the Victoria Faculty Newsletter, the faculty's bi-monthly publication, which has a circulation of over 5000 members.
- The RACGP Victoria Faculty will write to the other RACGP state faculties to draw their attention to this issue and suggest that they also run a similar warning in their State publications.
- RACGP Victoria Faculty will discuss this issue at an upcoming RACGP Victoria Faculty Board Meeting, to raise their awareness of this issue, for further discussion and possible action.
- The RACGP Victoria Faculty will request that an item be published in FridayFacts, the RACGP's weekly publication sent to over 22,000 recipients.

In terms of undertaking a public awareness raising program this issue would best be addressed by the Victorian Department of Health.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Parnis', written in a cursive style.

Dr Stephen Parnis
PRESIDENT AMA Victoria

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M.C. Rawlin', written in a cursive style.

Associate Professor Morton Rawlin
CHAIR RACGP Victoria Faculty