

18 November 2011

State Coroner Judge Jennifer Coate  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
Level 11  
222 Exhibition Street  
**Melbourne VIC 3000**



AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
(VICTORIA) LIMITED.  
ABN 43 064 447 678  
293 Royal Parade  
PO Box 21  
Parkville, Victoria 3052  
t 03 9280 8722  
f 03 9280 8786  
w [www.amavic.com.au](http://www.amavic.com.au)  
Country Freecall 1800 810 451

Dear Judge Coate

I write in relation to the findings of the Coroner following the inquest into the death of RORY delivered on 31 October 2011 (Court Reference 2510 / 2005).

In particular, I refer to the recommendations made by Coroner Tregent which included the following:

5. That the Australian Medical Association consider making it a mandatory requirement, that part of the continuing education taken by its members who prescribe addictive medication, is for training and education as to how to identify drug dependency and drug abuse and the strategies that can be implemented to limit it. In addition, such education could include alternative means of addressing the issues that give rise for the need for such medication in the first place.

I wish to advise the Court that it is not within the power of the AMA, or the scope of activities undertaken by it, to mandate that any medical practitioner complete particular training or education courses. Membership of the AMA is voluntary and it is not a condition of membership that doctors undertake particular education or training courses.

While AMA Victoria does offer educational seminars for its members, participation is voluntary and may not be formally recognised by the medical registration body for the purposes of a medical practitioner's obligations to continuing professional development.

I would therefore suggest that the Medical Board of Australia is the appropriate authority with which to raise the above recommendation. I note that it is the role of the Board to register medical practitioners and students and to approve accreditation standards and accredited courses of study.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please contact me on telephone (03) 9280 8722.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Stephens".

Jane Stephens  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



We are not sending Christmas cards this year. We hope you won't mind. Instead, in keeping with our commitment to advancing the health of all Victorians, we are donating the money we would have spent on cards to the Melbourne Citymission. The President, Board and Staff of AMA Victoria wish you and your loved ones a safe and peaceful festive season.