



25 June 2012

Direct Fax: 9840 3330

File Ref: REC/12/385-15

T4
Ambulance Victoria

ABN 50 373 327 705

375 Manningham Road
P.O. Box 2000
Doncaster Victoria 3108

T 03 9840 3500
F 03 9840 3583

www.ambulance.vic.gov.au

Judge Jennifer Coates
State Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000



Dear Judge Coates

Re: Coroners Case 4308/2006 – James Kellock Bloomfield

I refer to the recent inquest into the death of Mr James Bloomfield.

As a result of the inquest, there was one recommendation made by Her Honour Judge Hendtlass relating to Ambulance Victoria. The recommendation, together with Ambulance Victoria's response, is as follows:

Recommendation (5)

That Victoria Police and Ambulance Victoria establish a protocol and practical guidelines for transport of patients suspected to have a mental illness under section 10 of the Mental Health Act 1986.

Ambulance Victoria response:

This recommendation has already been implemented. In 2010, protocols were developed to improve service delivery to people with a mental illness.

The first protocol, entitled "*Ambulance transport of people with a mental illness protocol 2010*", was developed by the Department of Health in consultation with Ambulance Victoria, Victoria Police, mental health service providers and consumer and care representatives.

The second protocol, "*Department of Health and Victoria Police – Protocol for Mental Health*", was developed after extensive consultation between police and clinicians.

The protocols are extensive. They set out both the legal requirements and practical guidelines when dealing with patients with – or suspected to have - a mental illness.

These protocols are still current and are actively referred to by Ambulance Victoria. At a local level, ambulance paramedics, police officers and mental health practitioners call on and support each other to respond to a wide range of circumstances involving mental health issues. They also strive for better ways of collaborating through regular liaison meetings.



I trust this response satisfactorily address Her Honour's recommendation. I appreciate the recommendation was made to assist Ambulance Victoria perform at the highest level in its service to the community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Sassella', written in a cursive style.

GREG SASSELLA
Chief Executive Officer

Encl. Ambulance transport of people with a mental illness protocol 2010
Department of Health and Victoria Police – Protocol for Mental Health