



## VICTORIA POLICE

**Graham Ashton AM**  
**Chief Commissioner of Police**

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Our Ref: FF-136409

Coroner Darren Bracken  
Coroners Court Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Coroner Bracken

**Subject:** Finding into the death of Anthony Sean Jenkins  
**Case No:** COR 2017 4333  
**Date of Recommendation:** 14 December 2018

I refer to recommendations arising from the Inquest into the death of Anthony Jenkins who died at Geelong Hospital on 30 August 2017. The recommendations were delivered by you on 14 December 2018.

Victoria Police's response to your recommendations is detailed as follows:

### **Recommendation 1**

**I recommend that Victoria Police consider updating the *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Sexual Crimes* and relevant policies, procedures and protocols, to explicate the increased risk of suspects engaging in self-harm, between notification that allegations have been made against them and the intended interview date and to emphasise the significance of suspect welfare management at the first point of Victoria Police contact.**

This recommendation has been implemented.

In November 2018, the *Victoria Police Manual - Sexual Offence Investigation* was updated to include a direction that 'when making any enquiries, members should avoid using phone messages, calling cards or arranging meetings by appointment'. This direction, which is contained within the suspect welfare pre-interview considerations section, sought to address a previous coronial recommendation (COR 2015 006525) relating to the acknowledged increased self-harm or suicide risk in suspects prior to an arrest or interview stage.

## Recommendation 2


I also recommend that Victoria Police consider updating the *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Sexual Crimes* and relevant policies to require that investigating police provide the ISR brochure to suspects at the first point of police contact.

This recommendation will be implemented.

The Victoria Police Family Violence Command is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Sexual Crime*. The timing of the provision of the Information and Support Referral (ISR) brochure to a suspect will be considered as part of this review. The proposed amendments will include a new direction for investigating police to provide the ISR brochure at any initial in-person contact with suspects to explicate the increased risk of suspects engaging in self-harm or suicide between notification that allegations have been made against them and the scheduled interview date, and to emphasise the significance of suspect welfare management at the first point of Victoria Police contact.

In the interim, the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Team practice notes will be updated to reflect the proposed changes to the Code of Practice.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Ashton', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Graham Ashton AM  
Chief Commissioner

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