



Minister for Corrections

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Our ref: CD/17/544722

Her Honour Judge Sara Hinchey
State Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3006

Dear Judge

Response to the Coronial recommendations arising from the inquest into the death of Dermot Michael O'Toole COR 2013 3056

I write in response to your Finding and subsequent recommendation following the inquest into the murder of Mr Dermot O'Toole by prisoner on parole Gavin Perry. You found that Mr O'Toole died from a stab wound to the chest. Mr O'Toole's wife, Bridget, was also seriously injured in this tragic incident.

Your Finding noted that someone presenting today in circumstances similar to Perry's would be unlikely to be granted parole following recent reforms to the parole system in Victoria. You also note opportunities to further strengthen current processes and made the following recommendation for my consideration:

1. the Minister for Corrections explore whether Corrections Victoria and the Adult Parole Board should be granted coercive powers to obtain the health and medical records of offenders, in order that they are accurately informed of all relevant matters when conducting risk assessments for parole applications.

I accept this recommendation.

Mr Greg Wilson, Secretary, Department of Justice & Regulation has responded to your findings in detail. At my request, the Department is preparing a brief on the implementation of the abovementioned recommendation as it is likely to necessitate legislative change.

Please contact my office should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

**The Hon Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Corrections**

27 SEP 2017