



28 October 2019

A/Coroner Caitlin English
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanaugh Street
Southbank VIC 3006



cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Ref: Investigation into the death of Carmel Killackey – COR 2017 001844

Dear Coroner English

I have received the Finding Into Death Without Inquest, Court Reference COR 2017 1844 and note your recommendations which are specific to the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine. The College's responses are noted below; however, I would like to take the opportunity to provide additional comment to advice that you received through the course of your review, which given its inaccuracy may have subsequently prejudiced your recommendations.

I refer you to Dr Lowen's statements in regard to ACRRM, specifically points 74 and 75.

In point 75, Dr Lowen noted *"that neither the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) nor the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) stipulates Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements specifically for Emergency Medicine."* This statement is inaccurate.

ACRRM's major focus has at all times been the attainment and preservation of skills required to provide comprehensive care to rural communities, and Emergency care is in the forefront of that approach. Our primary curriculum includes a wide range of Emergency Medicine components specifically designed to prepare Fellows to work independently in Emergency Departments and other urgent care settings. Furthermore, specific to Dr Lowen's statement, the College's CPD program does stipulate requirements for maintaining and developing skills and experience in Emergency Medicine, and also includes a requirement to undertake Advanced Life Support training during every CPD cycle.

In point 76, Dr Lowen suggested *"that a recommendation could be made to the RACGP and ACRRM to develop a CPD program for general practitioners in Emergency Medicine."* and *"Dr Lowen also suggested a recommendation to create a Joint Consultative Committee in Urgent Care and Emergency Medicine to oversee CPD in those areas."*

As previously noted, ACRRM had at the time of this event, and for many years prior, a CPD program for General Practitioners in Emergency Medicine. In addition, pertinent to Dr Lowen's suggested recommendation; ACRRM, the RACGP and the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) currently participate in the tripartite Joint Consultation

Committee on Emergency Medicine (JCCEM). I should also note that the JCCEM existed prior to the events of this matter.

In addition to this clarification, please find below ACRRM's responses to the two recommendations pertinent to the College.

79. The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine currently has a robust and fit for purpose continuing professional development program that supports the maintenance and development of all College Fellows, including those who practice in Emergency Medicine. This entity was established prior to receipt of the Coroner's finding; ACRRM CPD page link is [here](#).

Additionally, the College's new Professional Development Program, which commences in January 2020, has improved mechanisms to better support the ongoing professional development for rural doctors pertinent to their individual scopes of practice; including Emergency Medicine.

80. The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine currently participate in the tripartite Joint Consultation Committee on Emergency Medicine. This entity was established prior to receipt of the Coroner's finding. ACEM notes it on their College website [here](#))

Additionally, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine has established an Emergency Medicine Working Group, consisting of senior Emergency doctors that review the College's education, training and continuing competency programs relevant to Emergency Medicine. This entity was established in June 2019. Furthermore, the College representatives on the Joint Consultation Committee on Emergency Medicine are also members of ACRRM's Emergency Medicine Working Group.

I trust this satisfies the requirements of the Coroner's Court of Victoria. Should you have any questions, or require anything in addition, please feel free to contact Sean Mutchmor, General Manager Quality and Safety at s.mutchmor@acrrm.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Marita Cowie
Chief Executive Officer