

27 August 2020

Ms Olivia Collard
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Melbourne, VIC 3006

Dear Ms. Collard,

Finding without inquest into the death of Mr. John A King (Court ref: COR 2017 4664)

I refer to the above Findings forwarded to Eastern Health by letter dated 27 May 2020 and specifically to the Coroner's recommendation as follows -

"To enhance the suite of improvements already made, I recommend that Eastern Health considers the use of video conferencing at Box Hill Hospital ED and Maroondah Hospital ED to enable a clinician to access specialist mental health clinicians to assess patients in ED when specialist mental health clinicians are unavailable at their campus."

I confirm that the Coroner's recommendation has been implemented.

The mental health program implemented a telehealth rollout for Eastern Health Emergency Departments (ED) independently of, but aligned with, the Coroner's recommendation. In addition to the Angliss Hospital, telehealth has been operational at both Box Hill and Maroondah Hospital ED since October 2019. This means that clinicians based at any ED within Eastern Health can assess patients at another ED.

Since mid-July 2020, in response to the COVID19 pandemic, laptop computers have been placed in Box Hill and Maroondah Hospital ED (which receive the vast majority of psychiatric presentations) to facilitate videoconference assessment via HealthDirect. This additional measure allows Eastern Health clinicians from outside ED, as long as they have access to a computer with a webcam, to assess patients in those two EDs.

Yours sincerely,



Associate Professor Paul Katz
BSc., M.B.Ch.B.,FCPsych (SA), FRANZCP
Executive Clinical Director Mental Health
Associate Professor
School of Psychology and Psychiatry
Monash University
Tel: (03) 9895 4959
Fax: (03) 9895 4993
Email: paul.katz@easternhealth.org.au