

9 November 2020

Ms Mikaela Meggetto
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3000

Sent by email to: cpresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Meggetto,

Finding without Inquest into the death of [REDACTED]
Court ref: 2017/4078

Thank you for your letter dated 28 May 2020 providing Eastern Health with the opportunity to provide a response to the recommendations made by Coroner Jamieson in her Findings dated 21 May 2020.

In relation to those recommendations, Eastern Health responds as follows:

- 1. Recommendation that Eastern Health services institute a review of new or alternative practices by a clinically relevant hospital committee, which include experienced senior medical staff, to thoroughly assess new or alternative practices for their risks and evidence basis and ultimately approve whether the new practice should be allowed to proceed.**

Response:

In 2018, Eastern Health established the Clinical Practice Committee with the delegated responsibility to ensure clinical guidelines are evidence based, approved and reviewed regularly. This process is supported by the Program Specific Quality and Safety Committees and Clinical Councils where evidence based practice is reviewed and recommended for implementation across the organisation as required. In terms of new or alternative practices that patients seek assistance with, Eastern Health would consider any proposals to incorporate these into clinical guidelines having regard to their risks and evidence basis.

The Maternity Quality and Safety Committee have meetings on a monthly basis and undertake this for the Women and Children program.

In addition, earlier this year, Eastern Health Executive approved the establishment of a Clinical Ethics Committee to provide advice regarding these types of clinical cases. It is expected that this Committee will consider and advise on new and/or alternative practices that have been proposed by Eastern Health patients. Eastern Health is currently in the process of appointing the committee with planned quarterly meetings involving additional Case Consultation Groups to review clinical cases as required.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to Coroner Jamieson's recommendations in relation to these important matters.

Should the Coroner require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me through our Chief Counsel, Emma Carnovale via emma.carnovale@easternhealth.org.au

Yours sincerely



Karen Fox
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