

29 March 2021

By email: [cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)

State Coroner John Cain  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTH BANK 3006

Dear State Coroner Cain

**Delmont Private Hospital response to recommendations arising from Finding into the death of Paul Peterson**

This document provides a response to your recommendations arising from the Finding into the death of Paul Peterson, delivered on 17 March 2020.

**Recommendation 1: That Delmont Private conduct a comprehensive review of the operation of and compliance with the January 2020 Therapeutic Leave Policy and Therapeutic Leave Procedure. The review should be conducted by an independent person and be completed no later than September 2021.**

Delmont Private Hospital (**Delmont**) accepts this recommendation in full, and intends to implement this recommendation.

To this end Delmont has made extensive enquiries to locate a suitable consultant to conduct the recommended review. These enquiries commenced immediately following the delivery of His Honour's findings. It initially encountered difficulties locating a suitable consultant with the necessary clinical expertise, and who is independent of Delmont.

Shortly following the delivery of His Honour's findings, and due to the imposition of restrictions arising from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the granting of therapeutic leave to patients at Delmont ceased. The granting of therapeutic leave has only recently resumed following the easing of restrictions.

Delmont was therefore of the view it was appropriate for the recommended review to be undertaken only once the granting of therapeutic leave had resumed.

Delmont has resumed its search for a suitable consultant. Delmont's enquiries to locate a suitable consultant to conduct the recommended review are ongoing. Delmont is currently reviewing the suitability of a potential candidate, who has the desired clinical expertise and who is independent of Delmont, with a view to conducting the recommended review by September 2021.

**Recommendation 2: That Delmont Private Hospital consider developing an e-learning module or online training module for staff and consultants directed at obligations and compliance with the Therapeutic Leave Policy and Procedure.**

This recommendation is under consideration. The introduction of an online training module was being considered by Delmont prior to the delivery of His Honour's findings.

Delmont is currently working through the logistical and budgetary issues associated with the implementation of an on-line training module.

In the interim, Delmont remains committed to educating its staff and consultants, and ensuring they are made aware of its policies. Now that the granting of therapeutic leave has resumed at Delmont, it proposes to implement a number of alternative measures to this recommendation to reinforce its Therapeutic Policy and Procedure to its staff and consultants. These measures include:

- 1 Sending the Therapeutic Leave Policy and Procedure, to its consultants electronically every 6 months, and requesting that they review the policies carefully, and confirm they have understood them by digitally signing them using Adobe Sign. This platform proficiently allows Delmont to send documents to a large number of recipients and track who has or has not signed and returned the documents. The process will be overseen by The Executive Office who will follow up any consultants who fail to return a signed copy of the documents;
- 2 Incorporating a session on its policies and procedures into the annual mandatory training provided to its consultants; and
- 3 Delmont's Director of Clinical Services will regularly attend each ward to discuss aspects of Delmont's Therapeutic Leave Procedure with clinical staff, and attend Medical Advisory Board Meetings to present to Delmont's consultants about their obligations under Delmont's Therapeutic Leave Policy and Procedure.

Delmont reiterates that it is willing to work with the Coroner's Court to further consider and implement any further recommendations or comments that are made with respect to this matter.

Yours Sincerely



**PETER SELAR**  
Chief Executive Officer