



Court ref: COR 2019 2336

Nicole D'Rozario
Coroners Registrar
team2@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms D'Rozario

Investigation into the death of Peta Hickey

Thank you for your letter dated the 22nd of November 2021 accompanying Coroner Simon McGregor's finding with inquest into the death of Peta Hickey.

I refer to the Coroner's recommendations:

2. That Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (**RANZCR**), the **Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA)** and the **Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC)** develop and implement a comprehensive training and certification programme for radiologists in the recognition and management of severe contrast reactions and anaphylaxis and the provision of CPR and basic life support including airway management with equipment available in radiology practices.

There are a number of courses available that will cover the requirements set out by the Coroner. These include:

- The online ASCIA anaphylaxis course, <https://etraining.allergy.org.au>
- The National Health Training Package has first aid courses that include the use and administer an adrenaline autoinjector, <https://training.gov.au/training/details/10710NAT>
- The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority also has a short course
- Australian Resuscitation Council Level 1 or 2 Advanced Life Support (ALS) courses. ARC ALS course includes team leadership and the advanced management of an airway.

All of the above courses cover anaphylaxis and its management. Instead of creating a new course, ARC Victoria branch recommends the available courses be review by RANZCR and ASMIRT. The ARC Victoria branch would be happy to assist and provide guidance in the review. We would then recommend that Radiographers and Radiologist would then be required to complete the selected course.

11. That **RANZCR, ASCIA, Australian Resuscitation Council** and the **Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT)** develop and implement a training and certification programme for radiographers in the recognition and management of severe contrast reactions and anaphylaxis, CPR and Basic Life support with a triannual recertification requirement, including:

(a) the ability to administer adrenaline via autoinjector when encountering a patient experiencing a severe reaction;

(b) playing an active role in emergency response, including raising issues with more senior staff when required.

With regard to recommendation (a), the clinical component of anaphylaxis management would be covered by the courses suggested above.

With regard to recommendation (b), this is a non-technical skill that needs a culture of open communication. This could be achieved by radiology practitioners attending one of the courses mentioned above or alternatively running a simulation in their practice. This would allow staff to practise their communication with senior members of staff in a safe learning environment, empowering all staff to speak up in an emergency if something was wrong.

Should you have any queries, please contact me Andrew Tongs, ARC Victoria Branch Chair on 5320 6447 or andrew.tongs@bhs.org.au

Yours sincerely

Andrew Tongs

Chair ARC Victoria Branch