



Secretary

Department of Health

50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone: 1300 650 172
GPO Box 4057
Melbourne Victoria 3001
www.health.vic.gov.au
DX 210081

BAC-CO-26017
COR 2021 000475

Coroner Simon McGregor
Coroners Court of Victoria
Via e-mail: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au.

Dear Coroner McGregor

Thank you for providing your findings in relation to the tragic death in January 2021 of FJL. My sincere condolences go to FJL's family and loved ones.

I acknowledge that drug checking services, where implemented, can provide another source of information to support an individual's decision-making and may reduce the number of deaths such as FJL's. In that regard, I note your recommendation. Currently, there are no plans to implement a drug checking service of the kind you have recommended. In the Department of Health we continue to review and consider evidence for this and other drug harm reduction approaches that may help prevent further deaths of people who use drugs.

Should your team wish to discuss this matter further, they can contact Krista Vanderheide, Director, Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy and Policy at the Department of Health via krista.vanderheide@health.vic.gov.au.

I thank you and the Court for this recommendation. Your findings and recommendations will continue to inform my department's work as we develop and introduce harm reduction initiatives.

Yours sincerely

Professor Euan M Wallace AM
Secretary

29/05/2022