

Northern Health

29 November 2022

Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006
By email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Registrar

Re: Finding into death without inquest- Cindy Jane Martin COR 2020 003618

I refer to the findings of Her Honour Deputy State Coroner Hawkins into the death of Ms Cindy Jane Martin dated 31 August 2022 COR 2020 003618 (“**the Findings**”).

Coroner Hawkins provided Recommendations applicable to Melbourne Health which at the relevant time operated NorthWest Mental Health (“NWMH”) (as it is so described in the Findings). NWMH was at the time a division of Melbourne Health, operating from Northern Health campuses by way of an arrangement with the Victorian Department of Health.

As at 1 July 2022, pursuant to the Orders made by the Governor in Council, on the Recommendation of the Minister for Health made under section 248(1)(d) of the *Mental Health Act 2014* (Vic), Northern Health became a designated mental health service. In essence, Northern Health has taken over control of certain mental health services from Melbourne Health and will be providing the same under its own governance. As such, although Her Honour’s Recommendations were applicable to Melbourne Health at the relevant time, due to the disaggregation, such Recommendations are now applicable to Northern Health.

In accordance with sections 72(3) and 72(4) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic), I confirm that Northern Health has accepted Her Honour’s Recommendations in full by amending Northern Health’s “Ward Management of Long-Term CPAP and NIV” procedure (“**the Procedure**”) to reflect and address the issue of CPAP use within the mental health context. The amendments encompass the key issues such as risk assessments, early intervention by a Respiratory Physician, documentation and risk reduction strategies. The Procedure will be subject to Northern Health’s usual audit and continued improvement processes.

Yours sincerely



Siva Sivarajah
Chief Executive

cc: Belinda Scott, Executive Director Mental Health Services
Dr William Shearer, Executive Director Quality, Safety and Transformation
Awash Prasad, Director Legal and Information Services