



Excellence in
Rural Healthcare

Cohuna District Hospital

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Date: 10/11/2022

Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank, Vic 3006

Ross Dallimore
Board Chairman
Cohuna District Hospital
148-155 King George Street
Cohuna, Vic, 3568

Dear Registrar,

Re: COR 2021 004473 – Recommendations will be implemented

I am writing in response to Coroner McGregor's findings without inquest into the death of [REDACTED]

This letter provides the actions that will be, taken by Cohuna District Hospital to address the Coroners recommendations.

1. Recommendation 1

Under section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008, the coroner recommended that:

Cohuna District Hospital provides psychosocial supports for residents in the aged care and palliative care programs.

Response to Recommendation 1

1.1 Investigate options for enhanced psychosocial supports in aged care. Services include;
Adjusted cognitive behaviour therapies, reminiscence therapies, validation therapy

1.2 Partnership with Bendigo Health Care Group for the provision of digital mental health services.

1.3 Review policy and processes to align with the Beyond Blue document *What works to promote emotional wellbeing in older people*. A guide for aged care staff working in community or residential care settings. [Beyond Blue](#)

2. Recommendation 2

Strengthen staff training in the assessment of suicide risk for aged care and palliative patients.

Response to Recommendation 2

2.1 Provide training for staff on suicide risk assessment specific to aged and residential services. Access training modules through Suicide Risk Assessment Australia. [Suicide Risk Assessment | Suicide Risk Assessment Australia](#).

2.2 Mental Health Victoria - *Calm Conversations* training for suicide prevention modules will be made available for all Cohuna District Hospital staff. [Mental Health Victoria | Training and workforce development \(mhvic.org.au\)](#)

3. Recommendation 3

Develop a flowchart outlining access to mental health services for residents in the aged care and palliative programs.

Response to recommendation 3

3.1 A flowchart will be developed following consultation with medical staff and Mental Health services.

4. Recommendation 4

Update the suicide risk procedure for aged care and palliative programs.

Response to recommendation 4

4.1 Update Aged Care – Standard Two - Ongoing Assessment and Planning with Consumer policy.

4.2 Review and include outcomes of coroners' recommendations to Recognising and responding to clinical/psychological deterioration- aged care policy.

4.3 Review Aged Care - Goals of care in residential care policy to reflect the learnings from this incident.

Cohuna District Hospital will take all reasonable steps to ensure our residents psychosocial wellbeing is considered and residents needs are identified and addressed in a timely manner in line with the above recommendations.

The Board have agreed that the Accountable officer for this action Plan is the Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Bernadette Loughnane and she has allocated responsibility accordingly to appropriate team. The Board will continue to have governance of this and will receive regular updates both at the Board of Directors Meeting and the Quality and Safety Sub-committee.

Like you, we apologise to [REDACTED]'s family and again express our sincere condolences for their loss.

Yours Sincerely,



Ross Dallimore, FAICD
Board Chair, Cohuna District Hospital

Cc Bernadette Loughnane

Recommendations made under section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008 (Vic) (the Act)				
CDR 2021 004473				
Cohuna District Hospital				
Action Plan				
Coroners Recommendation	Action	Person Responsible	Timeline	Outcome/Progress
Cohuna District Hospital provides psychosocial supports for residents in the aged care and palliative care programs.	Investigate options for enhanced psychosocial supports in aged care. Services required include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Adjusted cognitive behaviour therapies ✓ Reminiscence therapies ✓ Validation therapy 	Director of Clinical Services and Aged Care Nursing Unit Manager	June 23	
	Partnership with Loddon Mallee Health Care Network for the provision of access to digital mental health services.	CEO and Corporate Services Manager	June 23	
	Review policy and processes to align with the Beyond Blue document <i>What works to promote emotional wellbeing in older people</i> . A guide for aged care staff working in community or residential care settings Beyond Blue	Director of Clinical Services and Aged Care Nursing Unit Manager	June 23	
Strengthen staff training in the assessment of suicide risk for aged care and palliative patients.	Provide training for staff on suicide risk assessment specific to aged and residential services. Access training modules through Suicide Risk Assessment Australia. Suicide Risk Assessment Suicide Risk Assessment Australia	Director of Clinical Services and Aged Care Nursing Unit Manager	June 23	
	Mental Health Victoria - Calm Conversations training for suicide prevention modules be made available for all CDH staff. Mental Health Victoria Training and workforce development (mhvic.org.au)	Director of Clinical Services and Aged Care Nursing Unit Manager	June 23	

Develop a flowchart outlining access to mental health services for residents in the aged care and palliative programs	Flowchart to reflect outcomes of partnering with mental health providers.	Corporate Services Manager	June 23	
Update the suicide risk procedure for aged care and palliative programs.	Update policy <i>Aged Care – Standard Two - Ongoing Assessment and Planning with Consumer</i>	Director of Clinical Services and Aged Care Nursing Unit Manager	June 23	
	Review and include outcomes of coroners' recommendations to <i>Recognising and responding to clinical/psychological deterioration- aged care policy.</i>	Director of Clinical Services and Aged Care Nursing Unit Manager	November 2022	Completed
	Review <i>Aged Care - Goals of care in residential care</i> policy and timeframe for assessment to incorporate coroners' recommendations.	Director of Clinical Services and Aged Care Nursing Unit Manager	June 23	

Endorsed : Board President 10 Nov 2022.