



Secretary

Department of Health

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Coroner John Olle  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
**Via e-mail:** [cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)

Dear Coroner Olle

### **Investigation into the death of Baby A COR 2018 004096**

Thank you for your letter of 30 August 2023, regarding findings into the death of Baby A (COR 2018 004096). I was very sorry to learn of the circumstances of Baby A's death and express my deep condolences to Baby A's family for their loss.

Your findings regarding the death of *Baby A*, make the following recommendation:

*'I recommend that the Victorian Department of Health implement a multi-disciplinary approach to discharge throughout hospitals in Victoria, akin to what exists in New South Wales (NSW), whereby if any healthcare practitioner holds concerns about the discharge of a baby, having particular regard to the environment into which they will be discharged, the baby is not to be discharged.'*

The Department of Health (the department) acknowledges the recommendation.

From 1 July 2023 the delivery of primary healthcare at Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (DPFC) transitioned to the same healthcare provider as Sunshine Hospital (Western Health) providing an integrated transition of care across sites rather than discharge from one service to another.

Western Health's delivery of primary healthcare at DPFC includes a 24-hour nursing service, on-call medical service, extensive allied health services, alcohol and drug services, Aboriginal health and integrated care planning.

Further, in Victoria the *Capability Frameworks for Maternity and Newborn Services* (frameworks) outline the minimum requirements for safe and high-quality maternity and newborn care, including the required workforce, infrastructure, equipment and clinical support services.

Both frameworks require that health services have discharge planning guidelines, and for the maternity framework that these align with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare's *Transition of care – discharge from an acute facility* Comprehensive Care Standards (the Standards). These Standards require that:

- *discharge planning needs to take a multidisciplinary approach, with all members of the healthcare team providing input*
- *clinicians use processes for shared decision making to develop and document a comprehensive and individualised plan'*

A review and update of the Frameworks is currently underway in which, the newborn framework will be updated to require discharge planning for newborns also aligns with the Standards, including a multi-disciplinary approach.

More information about the Frameworks is available at <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/capability-frameworks-for-maternity-and-newborn-care-in-victoria>.

More information about the Standards is available at <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/transition-care-discharge-acute-facility>.

I hope this information is of assistance to you. If you require any further information, please contact Kym Arthur, Executive Director, Women's Health [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Euan M Wallace', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Professor Euan M Wallace AM**  
Secretary

17/01/2024