

25 March 2024

Kate Sanderson
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Support Services
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

Email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner's Court Registrar Sanderson,

Re: Coronial Investigation Finalised – Shane Michael Tuck (COR 2020 003895)

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Coroners Court of Victoria for the letter 11 December 2023 regarding the Investigation into the death of Shane Michael Tuck.

Requested responses to the following recommendation:

1. *The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners give consideration to expanding the education programs for general practitioners provided at medical colleges, in medical degrees and within the ongoing professional development and training programs on the short and long-term effects of repetitive head trauma associated with contact sports and the risk of developing serious brain injury and disease, including CTE.*

RACGP Responses pursuant to section 72(2) of the Act:

The RACGP already provides ongoing training and education opportunities for both GPs in training and qualified GPs including in the short and long-term effects of repetitive head trauma and the risks and implications associated with it. The RACGP is not responsible for training provided in medical degrees.

GPs access advice from a wide range of evidence based sources, so it is important that standardised, evidence-based, and easy-to-access concussion and head trauma guidelines are available to GPs at the point-of-care. GP trainees are taught to refer to clinical guidelines, resources and further education.

The RACGP provides links to the following endorsed and accepted clinical resources (external resources recognised by the RACGP as meeting specific quality criteria) as part of the '[Trauma and Injury](#)' guideline page:

- [Concussion in Sport Australia position statement](#) – an initiative of the Australian Institute of Sport, Australian Medical Association, Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians and Sports Medicine Australia, RACGP Accepted Clinical Resource. This statement includes special consideration of repetitive head trauma and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE)
- [Guideline for acute management of mild to moderate head injuries in children](#) – by the Paediatric Research in Emergency Departments International Collaborative (PREDICT), RACGP Endorsed Clinical Guideline

In addition to these guidelines, GP Registrars undertake a long period of supervised clinical practice. If there is a concussion or repetitive head trauma presentation in clinical practice during this period, GP trainees will be supervised by a senior GP on treatment for such injuries.

The RACGP also provides ongoing advice and support to members throughout their career with GPs required to complete 50 hours of CPD each year. The College uses various avenues including [continuing professional development](#) opportunities, [peer reviewed publications](#), links to [endorsed clinical guidelines](#), newsletters and [news articles](#), all of which include specific information on the management of head trauma and concussion.

Last year, RACGP has also provided a submission to the inquiry into concussions and repeated head trauma in contact sports and [published the submission on its website](#). The College welcomed the recommendation from this inquiry for the establishment of a Nation Sports Injury Database to help track the impact of sports head injuries.

We hope that this information is useful. If you have any further questions about the above, please contact RACGP State Manager Alice Crowley via vic.faculty@racgp.org.au.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr Anita Muñoz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'D'.

Dr Anita Muñoz
Chair, RACGP Victoria Faculty

