

11 April 2025

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

Subject: Response to Coroner's Recommendation – COR 2021 006924 – Kim Bartolo

Dear Coroners Court of Victoria,

Brunswick Private Hospital acknowledges the findings and recommendations made by Coroner David Ryan in relation to the death of Kim Bartolo, as outlined in the Coroner's report dated, 20 January 2025. We extend our sincere condolences to Ms. Bartolo's family and loved ones.

In response to the recommendations:

Recommendation:

That Brunswick Private Hospital review its procedures and processes in relation to the formulation and communication of discharge summaries to ensure that they include all relevant information relating to the treatment of a patient arising from the admission (including medication requirements relating to any mental health treatment) and that they are promptly communicated to the patient's General Practitioner.

Statement of Action:

Brunswick Private Hospital confirms that the recommended interventions have been implemented. The following procedures and processes have been established to ensure comprehensive discharge summaries are formulated and communicated effectively to General Practitioners (GPs):

1. Review of Discharge Policy to incorporate the below -15/12/2024
 - A standardised discharge checklist has been introduced to ensure that all key details—including treatment provided, medication changes, and follow-up requirements—are clearly communicated to both the patient and their GP.
 - A new process commenced on 18/12/2024 following the review of the Discharge Policy for all discharge summaries sent to a patient's GP be stamped as faxed and dated as confirmation of transmission. This process ensures proper documentation and accountability.

2. Implementation of Electronic discharge summary- 06/8/2024

- From August 2024, Brunswick Private Hospital has implemented an electronic discharge summary system that directly integrates with My Health Record, improving accessibility for GPs and continuity of care.

3. The Coroner's findings and the recommendations arising from the hospital's review of Kim Bartolo's case have been added to the agenda for discussion at relevant hospital committees, including.

- The Senior management Team meeting held on 11th March 2025
- Medical Advisory Committee scheduled to meet in June 2025

4. Ongoing Audit and Compliance Monitoring

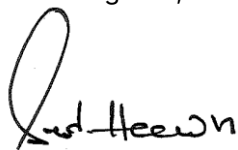
- Bi-annual In patient Documentation Audits are in place to monitor compliance where areas of improvement are identified, actions are developed. Noting that where audit results are not aligned to benchmark re-auditing will be conducted.
- Results are reviewed by the hospital's Quality and Risk Committee, and additional training will be provided as required.

5. Review of Hospital By-laws- 30/09/2024

- A revision of the Aurora Healthcare Hospital By-Laws were updated and circulated to all credentialed health practitioners. The By-Laws reinforce that the primary/admitting medical physician remains responsible for overall patient management, including responsibility for clear communication at time of discharge with GPs about treatment plans and medication changes.

These measures reflect our commitment to patient safety and improving clinical processes. We appreciate the opportunity to address this matter and remain committed to continuous improvement.

Warm regards,



Syed Hossain
Chief Executive Officer
Brunswick Private Hospital

Cc Andrew Blyth – Exec GM Vic/WA