

Our Ref: AP:251642
Your Ref: COR 2023 005124

8 April 2025

Nicole D'Rozario
Coroner's Registrar
Coroner's Court of Victoria

Dear Ms D'Rozario

Re: Investigation into the death of CL

Northern Health welcomes the opportunity to comment on the findings made by His Honour Coroner David Ryan following his investigation into the death of CL ('the Findings').

The Findings make 5 recommendations, and I respond to each of them in turn.

Recommendation 1

Northern Health agrees with recommendation 1 and confirms that it has reviewed and updated its current procedure to be explicit that homelessness is not an exclusion criteria and that the Priority Discharge Fund can be used for PARC consumers.

Recommendation 2

Northern Health agrees with recommendation 2 and confirms that it will review its current discharge process for mental health in-patients (and associated policies and procedures) to ensure that it aligns with the guidance from the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist.

Recommendation 3

This recommendation appears to be directed to Safer Care Victoria, and as such, Northern Health makes no comment in relation to it.

Recommendation 4

Northern Health confirms that a review of its reporting of Sentinel Events are consistent with Safer Care Victoria's *Victoria sentinel event guide (Version 2)*.

Recommendation 5

Northern Health agrees with recommendation 5 and will undertake a review of its policies and procedures regarding reporting obligations for patients who have died by suicide within 24 hours of discharge. We will ensure these revised policies align with Safer Care Victoria's Adverse Patient Safety Event Policy and the reporting and investigation obligations of the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist for mental health consumers.

Northern Health is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the recommendations and is committed to working with the Coroner's Court for the safety of our consumers and community.

Please contact me with any questions.

Yours faithfully



Debra Bourne
Chief Executive Officer