

20 May 2025

Coroner Simon McGregor
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

By email only: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner McGregor,

Inquest into the Passing of Veronica Nelson – COR 2020 0021

We refer to the above matter, and to the written response to the Court of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (**Commission**), dated 27 April 2023.

Review under section 41(c) of the Charter

We confirm that the Commission has now commenced an independent review (**Review**) under section 41(c) of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Vic) (**Charter**).

The Review arises from Recommendation 39 of the Finding in this matter:

No later than 12 months from the date of this Finding, Corrections Victoria, Justice Health and Correct Care Australasia, as public authorities under the Charter request that the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission conduct a review under Section 41(c) of the Charter of any improvements to programmes, practises, and facilities made in response to the recommendations above, and provide an overview of the results of that review for publication on the Coroners Court of Victoria website along with the responses to the Recommendations made in this Finding.

Steps taken

We confirm that pursuant to section 41(c) of the Charter, the Department of Justice and Community Safety (**DJCS**), and the Commissioner of Corrections Victoria have formally requested the Commission undertake the Review of the programs and practices of DJCS Justice Health and Corrections Victoria (**Review Parties**).

In February 2025, a contract was executed between the Commission and the Review Parties to undertake the Review, and the Terms of Reference have been agreed.

The Commission will undertake the following actions during its Review:

- a) Identify the changes made to programs and practices of the Review Parties in response to the Recommendations made by the Coroner
- b) Analyse the extent to which these improvements are compatible with human rights under the Charter

- c) Develop recommendations necessary to improve compliance with the Charter
- d) Develop a publicly available report to be published on the Coroners Court of Victoria website in compliance with Recommendation 39.

By agreement with the Review Parties, the Commission will review the programs and practices captured by Recommendations 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33 and 37 of the Finding in this matter.

The Review Parties have been working very collaboratively with the Commission to date in establishing the Review. In the coming months the Commission will continue to work with Review Parties to undertake the Review actions and to develop our report and recommendations. The Commission will provide the final report for publication on the Coroners Court website by **31 March 2026**.

The Commission recognises the importance of protecting human rights in custodial environments. We are hopeful that the Review will lead to improved human rights compliance for people in Victorian prisons and benefit people who are impacted by the prison system in Victoria.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Bonnie Halsall, Principal Adviser, Independent Reviews at the Commission. Bonnie can be contacted by email

[Redacted email address]

Yours sincerely,



Ro Allen

Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner