

IN THE MATTER of the Coroner's Act 2008

and

the death of **ALAN DEEM – COR 2020 005730**

RESPONSE BY WESTERN HEALTH

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Pursuant to section 72(3) of the Coroner's Act 2008 (Vic), Western Health hereby responds to the following recommendations made by Coroner John Olle on 1 April 2025:
 - a. That Western Health determine whether the delay in the referral was exacerbated by the lack of documentation or medical records; and
 - b. That Western Health develop and implement measures to ensure referrals are expedited or completed in a timely manner.

STATEMENT OF ACTION IN RELATION TO RECOMMENDATIONS

2. In response to Recommendation 1, Western Health confirms that Mr Deem's care was reviewed in detail as part of a Mortality and Morbidity Audit and in the course of preparing responses to the Coroner. Western Health's investigations did not conclude that there was any delay in referral to the Royal Melbourne Hospital.
3. In response to Recommendation 2, Western Health is confident that there are structured referral processes and workflows to support safe and timely inter-hospital transfers. In light of these findings, Western Health is committed to reviewing our inter-hospital transfer process with Melbourne Health to identify any opportunities for improvement.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicholas Cox', positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

Associate Professor Nicholas Cox
Director of Cardiology
Western Health