

18 February 2026

Sheean Werkmeister
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street, Southbank VIC 3006
Email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Subject: Formal Response to Recommendations Pursuant to Section 72(2)
COR 2023 002138

Dear Sheean,

Thank you for forwarding Coroner Fitzgerald's 'Finding Into Death Without Inquest' into the death of Tania De Jong (COR 2023 002138). I write to formally respond to the recommendation made under section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008 directed to South Eastern Private Hospital regarding the clinical management and discharge protocols for patients found to be misusing alcohol or other drugs during their admission.

Recommendation:

"I recommend that (SEPH) implement a policy whereby any determination to discharge or continue treatment of a patient discovered to be abusing drugs/alcohol should include a requirement to seek advice from an appropriately qualified Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Clinician."

Action Taken:

South Eastern Private Hospital acknowledges and accepts this recommendation in full. A new clinical policy, *Alcohol and Other Drugs Management*, has been developed and implemented, effective February 2026.

Key components of this policy include:

- **Mandatory Specialist Consultation:** Any clinical decision regarding the discharge or continuation of treatment for a patient identified as misusing drugs or alcohol during admission must include a documented consultation with an appropriately qualified AOD Clinician.
- **Risk Assessment Framework:** The policy establishes a structured pathway to support early identification of substance misuse and ensure timely involvement of AOD services.

- **NSQHS Alignment:** The policy has been aligned with the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards to promote safe, high-quality patient care and clear clinical accountability.

South Eastern Private Hospital remains committed to continuous quality improvement and to strengthening systems that safeguard patient wellbeing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Blyth', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Blyth
Chief Executive Officer – South Eastern Private Hospital
Executive General Manager (Vic/WA) – Aurora Healthcare