



Secretary

Department of Health

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Sheean Werkmeister
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria

Via e-mail: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Registrar

**COR 2020 1714 – Narisha Faye Cash – Finding into death with inquest
Response to recommendations directed to the Department of Health**

Thank you for providing the finding of Coroner Catherine Fitzgerald dated 19 December 2025 into the death of Narisha Faye Cash. I offer my condolences to Ms Cash's family and loved ones.

Coroner Fitzgerald made ten recommendations, of which recommendation 7 is directed to the Department of Health (the department), and recommendations 8, 9 and 10 are directed to the department together with additional agencies. For ease of reference, I have maintained the numbering used by Coroner Fitzgerald in my response below:

*Recommendation 7: That the Department of Health implement Recommendation 10 in its entirety (**Recommendation 7**).*

*Recommendation 8: That the Department of Health, Ambulance Victoria, Victoria Police, Triple Zero Victoria and the Department of Justice and Community Safety, in implementing Recommendation 10 arising from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, review the circumstances of Nish's passing (as detailed within the Finding into death after Inquest) (**Recommendation 8**).*

*Recommendation 9: That the Department of Justice and Community Safety, Victoria Police, the Department of Health and Triple Zero Victoria separately publicly report on the specific actions taken to progress implementation of Recommendation 10 of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, including revised implementation dates, and the reasons for any delays (**Recommendation 9**).*

*Recommendation 10: That the Department of Justice and Community Safety, Victoria Police, the Department of Health and Triple Zero Victoria separately report on their websites the activities undertaken and the outcomes achieved as a result of funding received in the 2021-22 and 2023-24 Budgets to progress Recommendation 10 of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, and any future funding received (**Recommendation 10**).*

The Victorian Government has committed to implementing all of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System (the Royal Commission) and the department accepts the Coroner's recommendations, which are either in the process of implementation or will be implemented.

Recommendation 7

The department is currently leading a multi-year reform in partnership with the Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS), Ambulance Victoria, Victoria Police and Triple Zero Victoria to progress the Royal Commission's Recommendations 8, 9 and 10 via a phased implementation pathway.

Implementing the continuum of services recommended by the Royal Commission requires careful sequencing over multiple years to mitigate risks and establish a sustainable model which considers system improvements, workforce readiness and industrial engagement. The timing for implementing the changes will depend on system readiness and future government funding decisions.

Recommendation 8

As the implementation lead for Recommendation 8, the department will consider the circumstances of Ms Cash's passing in the design and implementation of Recommendation 10 of the Royal Commission.

For example, subject to future funding decisions by government, the department could consider the specific circumstances of Ms Cash's passing in planning for the establishment of any enhanced virtual clinical assistance models for first responders. This service response may improve access to mental health expertise to support in-field assessment and decision-making by paramedics and police.

Recommendation 9

Currently, the department reports annually on the status of mental health reforms through the Chief Officer for Mental Health and Wellbeing Annual Report. The department will implement the Coroner's recommendation by reporting on progress of implementation of Royal Commission Recommendation 10 via this report. Further, the department maintains web pages on each of the Royal Commission recommendations, and commits to regularly updating its page on Recommendation 10.

Recommendation 10

Funding received in the 2021-22 and 2023-24 State Budgets has enabled the department to collaborate with partner agencies to progress the implementation of Recommendation 10 through planning and design activities on new and enhanced service responses. The department engaged design specialists to develop and design enhanced service options. This design process has had regard to emergency service partner agencies, DJCS, lived and living experience perspectives and service providers to improve the mental health service response system. For example, design work included enhancements to mental health clinical assistance and early intervention, which if implemented could better support emergency services to transition safely and effectively to a health-led response.

The department will liaise with its partner agencies regarding future reporting on funding outcomes for implementation of Recommendation 10, and will include regular updates on its [Recommendation 10 web page](#).

I trust that this information is of assistance to the Court.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Atta PSM
Secretary

16/03/2026