



VICTORIA POLICE

Mike Bush CNZM
Chief Commissioner of Police

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Coroner Ingrid Giles
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh St,
Southbank, VIC. 3006

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

Subject: [REDACTED] Finding into Death without Inquest
Court Reference: COR 2021 006836
Date of Findings: 4 December 2025

Dear Coroner Giles,

This document provides a response to your two recommendations to Victoria Police, arising from the Finding into the Death of [REDACTED] without Inquest, delivered on 4 December 2025.

The response to the recommendations is set out below.

Recommendation (i)

*That the **Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police** consider the implementation of a mandatory requirement that Victoria Police members record contemporaneous (or as close to) notes when they undertake risk assessments pertaining to the wellbeing of individuals suspected of child sexual offences.*

Victoria Police supports a version of this recommendation in principle - that members record that they have undertaken a risk assessment and to document any resulting wellbeing concerns - with an adjustment to the requirement for mandatory recording of risk assessments. Victoria Police respectfully considers that the threshold for documentation is more appropriately 'where practicable' noting:

- a) members are faced with a range of competing responsibilities when interviewing suspects which may make contemporaneous recording of risk assessments unfeasible; and
- b) risk assessment is a dynamic and ongoing process, meaning recording all aspects of a risk assessment will be unfeasible in some circumstances; and
- c) when members *do* assess a person as at risk of suicide or self-harm, this already triggers mandatory recording practice as per Victoria Police Manual (**VPM**) – Management of People in Police Care or Custody; and
- d) the nature of risk assessments undertaken by police is necessarily limited as police are not an appropriate workforce to conduct detailed or clinical assessments.

These updates will be made as part of broader enhancements to VPM – Sexual Offence Investigations resulting from an internal review of suspect welfare management requirements.

Recommendation (ii)

*That the **Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police** consult with the **Office of the Chief Psychiatrist** with the view to consider the implementation of a protocol which explicitly advises suspects and/or their families, including their 'nominated support person' (where applicable), of the increased risk of suicide and/or self-harm which affects persons investigated of certain offences and provides information on appropriate referral and escalation avenues to mitigate the same.*

Victoria Police does not support this recommendation.

Victoria Police already has in place robust referral pathways to mental health services through the Victoria Police eReferral (VPeR) program. The VPeR program allows for referrals for those at risk, including suspects and their families/support persons as the case requires.

The contact details of mental health services are also included on the Information and Support Referral brochure which is provided by police to persons suspected of child sexual offences and their support persons.

Further, Victoria Police also has concerns regarding the appropriateness of police advising suspects' families or their support persons about the potential for increased risk of suicide and/or self-harm, noting the need for police to balance welfare considerations of suspects with privacy obligations.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Bush CNZM
Chief Commissioner

MB 14/1/2026