

18 June 2026

Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street,
Southbank, Victoria, 3006
By email to: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner Giles

RE: Catherine Alison Lynch (COR 2022 003659)

On behalf of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (the College), I acknowledge the findings into the death of Catherine Lynch and extend my sympathies to her family, friends and community. I respond to the recommendations as made.

I note The Coroners Court of Victoria's Recommendation (i)

"The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists introduce mandatory family violence training into their fellowship training for new psychiatrists."

The College acknowledges this recommendation. The College's remit includes professional standards, education and training, clinical guidance, and policy and advocacy on issues relevant to psychiatric practice and mental health. Within that remit, the College's primary role is to support psychiatrists through broader clinical, educational and policy frameworks.

The RANZCP reiterates its commitment to addressing the mental health impacts of family violence and improving clinicians' capability to identify, respond to, and support those affected.

On 12 March 2025 and 7 November 2025, the College responded to two similar coronial recommendations, Recommendation iii in Samantha Fraser (COR 2018 003600) and Recommendation 1 William Charles Heddergott (COR 2020 006253), which addressed our existing family and domestic learning resources available to all members via our online CPD platform.

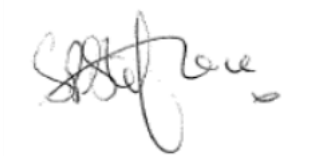
These include:

- A Family and Domestic Violence Learning Path, accessible to all members
- [RANZCP Position Statement 102: Family Violence and Mental Health](#)
- [Clinical Practice Guidelines on Family and Domestic Violence](#)
- [Position Statement 100: Trauma-Informed Practice](#)
- Oversight and leadership by the [RANZCP Family Violence Psychiatry Network Committee](#)

The RANZCP Department of Education is currently developing a New Fellowship Program, including a review of the New Fellowship curriculum. The coroner's recommendation has been shared with the New Fellowship Program Taskforce for consideration. Once the New Fellowship curriculum is finalised the College will provide an update to the coroner.

The RANZCP Victorian Branch is additionally committed to promoting family violence CPD and additional education opportunities for psychiatrists within the Victorian jurisdiction in collaboration with the [RANZCP Family Violence Psychiatry Network Committee](#), as well as stakeholders within Victorian specialist services and the Victorian Mental Health and Wellbeing System.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Stafrace', with a stylized flourish at the end.

A/Prof Simon Stafrace
Chair, RANZCP Victorian Branch

To discuss this further, please contact Jo Balmforth, Branch Lead, at ranzcp.vic@ranzcp.org