



## Secretary

Department of Health

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Niels Gabriels  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria

**Via e-mail:** [cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)

Dear Mr Gabriels

Thank you for providing the findings of Coroner Audrey Jamieson dated 3 February 2026 (COR 2024 007551) into the death of Jeffrey Wilson. I offer my condolences to Mr Wilson's family and loved ones.

Coroner Jamieson made the following recommendation directed to the Department of Health (the department):

*In the interests of promoting public health and safety and preventing like deaths, I recommend that the Department of Health consider whether a discharge home oxygen process similar to that instituted by Grampians Health, involving Hospital in the Home and specialist respiratory review, be recommended as a model of care to other health services.*

The department acknowledges the recommendation made by the Coroner and recognises the complexities associated with patient use of supplemental oxygen equipment outside of hospitals and in patients' home environments

The Statewide Equipment Program (SWEP) provides funding towards the cost of assistive technology equipment and related products to people in Victoria. SWEP is funded by the department. Relevantly, SWEP administers the Domiciliary Oxygen Program (DOP) which provides subsidised oxygen equipment to patients who qualify according to the guidelines.<sup>1</sup> The guidelines state that oxygen will not be supplied to anyone who is a current smoker or who has resumed active smoking, and that funding and oxygen supplies will only recommence once the client can demonstrate that they have completely abstained from smoking for at least 4 weeks. SWEP's Practitioner Manual for the DOP sets out that consumers must have ceased smoking at least 6-8 weeks prior to oxygen assessment being conducted and an application for SWEP funding being submitted. This is due to the unacceptably high risk posed by simultaneously using oxygen and smoking.<sup>2</sup>

The department notes the discharge home oxygen process instituted by Grampians Health Ballarat at the beginning of 2025, whereby a respiratory consultant is involved in exercising

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<sup>1</sup> Thoracic Society Guidelines (TSANZ) and the Victorian A&EP Guideline.

<sup>2</sup> Practitioner Manual for Domiciliary Oxygen Program, Version 1 June 2022, Grampians Health 2022.

judgement about a patient's suitability for home oxygen where they ceased smoking less than 6 weeks ago. This process appears to enable recommendations for the provision of non-funded home oxygen equipment to patients that are ineligible for SWEP's DOP at the respiratory consultant's discretion.

The department considers the discharge home oxygen process to be the purview of health care services, as informed by clinicians' assessment of patient suitability. The department considers the SWEP eligibility criteria to be an appropriate collective safeguard reflecting the extremely high risk posed by simultaneously using home oxygen and smoking. However, the department will circulate an e-mail reminder to health services regarding the assessment of patient suitability for home oxygen use and the associated risks, and will highlight the process established by Grampians Health.

I trust this response is of assistance to the Court.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Atta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Jenny Atta PSM**  
Secretary

10/05/2026