



Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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CSEC-260300292

Ms Kate Sanderson
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

By email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Sanderson

Finding without inquest into the death of Sacha Timothee Louis Lefebvre – COR 2024 007013

I write in response to the findings made by State Coroner Simon McGregor on 26 March 2026 regarding the death of Sacha Timothee Louis Lefebvre. The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (the department) acknowledges the tragic death of Sacha Timothee Louis Lefebvre, and I extend my sincere condolences to his family and community.

State Coroner Simon McGregor has made two recommendations. Recommendation B falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the department, and the department is formally responding to this recommendation on behalf of the Victorian Government.

Recommendation B:

That the Victorian Government consider the suitability of the Better Health and Housing Program (BHHP) for further rollout in conjunction with other public hospitals and specialist homelessness sector providers across the state.

Response:

The State Coroner's recommendation is under consideration. The department acknowledges the positive outcomes achieved by the BHHP, however any expansion of the program must be linked with service reform to strengthen connections between health and homelessness services to ensure the program can continue to be a success.

Background

The department recognises the interconnectedness of poor health and homelessness. There is increasing evidence that those experiencing or at risk of homelessness have poorer health outcomes than those in stable housing. The Victorian Government is committed to supporting these individuals with access to the health and housing support they need.

The BHHP evolved from the Victorian Government's COVID-19 pandemic response, building upon the foundations of the COVID Isolation Recovery Facility (CIRF). Initially established in 2020, the CIRF was a 40-bed facility operated by a consortium of St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, Launch Housing, and Brotherhood of St Laurence to provide safe isolation accommodation for people experiencing homelessness during lockdowns.

As the need for COVID isolation decreased, the department identified an opportunity to transform this existing partnership into an innovative program addressing a critical gap in healthcare. The BHHP was commissioned in mid-2022 as a pilot integrated health and housing service, specifically designed to support people experiencing both chronic homelessness and complex health conditions.

The BHHP was independently evaluated in 2024, with the report stating the combination of health, wellbeing and housing outcomes empowered individuals to break the cycle of chronic homelessness and poor health. The report highlighted that maximising outcomes for the BHHP may require improved cross-sector coordination and a more strategic system-wide approach.

On 20 April 2026, representatives from the department met with program representatives from Launch Housing and St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne to discuss the issues of health risks and homelessness and the potential expansion of the BHHP. Discussions acknowledged the challenges of any program expansion to maintain fidelity of the current model and financial sustainability to ensure positive outcomes for participants. The department will continue discussions on program expansion with the BHHP partners and other stakeholders in the coming months.

The department has met with the Department of Health and agree any consideration of BHHP expansion should involve both departments given the program provides a joint health and homelessness response. The department notes the continuation of the existing BHHP or expansion of the program remains subject to Victorian Government budget processes.

I trust this information is of assistance. If you require further information, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Peta McCammon PSM
Secretary

20/06/2026