



Australian
Commission on
Safety and Quality
in Health Care

TRIM: D26-25369

Mr Niels Gabriels
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Gabriels

Investigation into the death of White-Wolf McLellan (COR 2025 003186)

Thank you for your letter of 24 April 2026 concerning the coroner's investigation into the death of Ms White-Wolf Patricia McLellan. I would like to pass on my sincere condolences to Ms McLellan's family.

I write in response to recommendation ii):

ii) In the interests of preventing like deaths and promoting public health and safety, I recommend that the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare consider incorporating recommendations for VTE prophylaxis in patients with lower limb trauma requiring immobilisation but not admission in the next iteration of the Venous Thromboembolism Prevention Clinical Care Standard.

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) leads and coordinates national improvements in the safety and quality of health care. The [Venous Thromboembolism \(VTE\) Prevention Clinical Care Standard](#) (the VTE Standard) is one of the Commission's Clinical Care Standards and was first published in 2018 with a minor update in 2020.

In relation to Recommendation ii) I would like to advise the **recommendation will be implemented**. The VTE Standard is currently being reviewed and the Commission will consider incorporating recommendations for VTE prophylaxis in patients with lower limb trauma requiring immobilisation who are discharged to the community as part of the review.

The Commission reviews Clinical Care Standards periodically to ensure they remain in line with current evidence and priorities for improvements in care. In 2025, the Commission identified a need to update the VTE Standard and commenced a review. As part of this process, the Commission will consider the scope of the Clinical Care Standard, review and assess the evidence base, consult with a broad range of stakeholders, and assess feasibility, safety, and implementation considerations to support national applicability.

I note that the current scope of the VTE Standard includes patients who are "discharged home from the emergency department with significantly reduced mobility compared to their normal state (for example, due to a lower-limb injury requiring immobilisation with a plaster



cast/brace).”¹ As part of the review, consideration will be given to how the VTE Standard can better address the issues raised in the Coroner’s report.

The review and update to the Standard will be undertaken with advice from a multidisciplinary expert topic working group and include consultation with all state and territory health departments, including the Victorian Department of Health through Safer Care Victoria. The final revised Standard will be disseminated to Health Chief Executives in all states and territories and through the Commission’s Inter-Jurisdictional Committee.

The review is anticipated to progress through to the second half of 2027. The Commission would be pleased to keep you informed of the review’s progress and advise you of any changes resulting from the review process.

For further information please contact:
Conjoint Professor Anne Duggan
Chief Executive Officer



Thank you for your support for this important work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Anne Duggan'.

Conjoint Professor Anne Duggan
Chief Executive Officer

14 July 2026

¹ Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Venous Thromboembolism Prevention Clinical Care Standard (January 2020), p 6, available at: https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/sites/default/files/resources/attachments/venous_thromboembolism_prevention_clinical_care_standard_-_jan_2020_2.pdf.