



The Hon. Sonya Kilkeny MP

Attorney-General

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Her Honour Judge Liberty Sanger
State Coroner, Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Judge Sanger

Court Reference: COR 2021 005579

I refer to your findings made on 9 October 2025 regarding the tragic death of Ms Narelle Catherine Simmons. I convey my sincere condolences to Ms Simmons's family, friends and loved ones for their loss and thank you for your considered investigation into the circumstances surrounding her death.

I note that the recommendation in your findings is directed to me, stating:

That the Attorney-General consider making a referral to the Victorian Law Reform Commission to:

- a. consider the creation of a new offence (abandoning a victim in medical need);*
and/or
- b. amending the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic) to include abandonment of a victim in medical need as an example of family violence; and*
- c. to consider how family violence perpetrators can be held account in circumstances where a charge of criminal negligence is not available.*

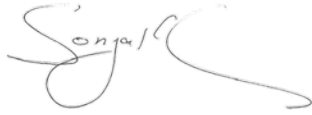
I have had regard to the *Coroners Court of Victoria Guidelines for Responding to Coroners' Recommendations* in preparing a response to your recommendation in this matter.

I wish to advise that, as announced by the Premier on 20 September 2026, a re-elected Carroll Labor Government will implement these recommendations by:

1. Introducing a new offence to cover when a perpetrator of family violence abandons a victim in medical need.
2. Amending the definition of family violence under the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic)* to include abandonment of a victim in medical need.

We will continue to monitor and consider approaches to family violence as a part of future reforms to hold perpetrators accountable.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonya Kilkenny', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Sonya Kilkenny
Attorney-General

Date: 5/10/2026