



The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny MP

Attorney-General

GPO Box 4356
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone: +61 3 8684 1111

Our ref: 26093718

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 2023 003937

I refer to your findings made on 11 August 2026 regarding the tragic death of Ms Belinda Ann Jones. I convey my sincere condolences to Ms Jones' family, friends and loved ones for their loss and thank you for your considered investigation into the circumstances surrounding her death.

I note that one of the recommendations 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 to 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.

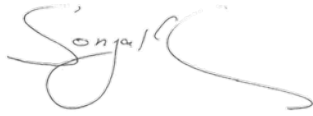
I wish to advise that, as announced by the Premier on 20 September 2026, a re-elected Carroll Labor Government will implement these recommendations by:

- Introducing a new offence to cover when a perpetrator of family violence abandons a victim in medical need.

- 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 long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sonya Kilkenny
Attorney-General

Date: 30/09/2026