



Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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COR 2024 005245

Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

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

Dear Registrar

Finding into death without Inquest - Adam Southern - COR 2024 005245

I write in response to Coroner Simon McGregor's finding without inquest into the death of Adam Southern from 15 July 2026.

I refer to His Honour's recommendation to explore improvements to policies and procedures for Orange Door referrals to the Men's Behaviour Change Program, and that referrals should remain open for at least 30 days before closure can be authorised. I provide the following response to this recommendation on behalf of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing – Family Safety Victoria (the department) and The Hon Sonia Kilkenny, Minister for Prevention of Family Violence.

His Honour's recommendation is partially accepted. The department supports in-principle the ongoing need for refinement and improvement to policies and procedures relating to referrals to the Men's Behaviour Change Program and responses to incomplete Victoria Police Family Violence reports (L17 referrals). The Orange Door works collaboratively with external partners, such as service providers and other government agencies including Victoria Police, to support timely referrals and allocation to services and will continue to strengthen these processes. The department recognises the importance of adults using family violence being able to access appropriate behaviour change interventions, including Men's Behaviour Change Programs in a timely way, and will continue to explore system improvements to support this while maximising victim survivor safety.

I note His Honour's comments of systemic issues related to unactioned L17 referrals where the alleged perpetrator has not been contacted by intake services such as the Men's Referral Service and The Orange Door.

The Orange Door and other intake services confirm if Victoria Police has spoken to the alleged perpetrator and/or if a Family Violence Intervention Order has been served. Often there are delays in receiving confirmation by Victoria Police. Where there are delays, the intake services will not contact the alleged perpetrator to reduce risk of family violence

escalating. If safe to do so, The Orange Door contacts victim survivors to offer support, including undertaking family violence risk assessment and safety planning. The Orange Door will also undertake a system response including information sharing and risk management in relation to the family violence risk posed by the alleged perpetrator.

Family Safety Victoria is collaborating with Victoria Police to improve the overall process, including to address systemic issues.

The Orange Door provides an intake, brief intervention and referral service where there is family violence and/or child wellbeing need. To ensure The Orange Door's ability to meet ongoing demand, all referrals are responded to on a risk and needs basis in accordance with statewide operational guidance. This response is often provided in less than 30 days. Keeping referrals open for at least 30 days (including where The Orange Door service has been completed), as recommended, would have implications for The Orange Door's ability to meet demand and does not align with the service model within the service system. The department does not accept the second component of the recommendation for referrals to remain open for at least 30 days.

Yours sincerely



Peta McCammon PSM
Secretary

14/10/2026