



IN THE CORONERS COURT
OF VICTORIA
AT MELBOURNE

**COR 2025
006987**

FINDING INTO DEATH WITHOUT INQUEST

Form 38 Rule 63(2)

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

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| Findings of: | Coroner Kate Despot |
| Deceased: | Amanda Joy Taylor |
| Date of birth: | 14/12/1963 |
| Date of death: | 1/10/2025 |
| Cause of death: | 1a : Complications of advanced relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (palliated) |
| Place of death: | 12 Porter Road Heidelberg Heights Victoria 3081 |
| Keywords: | Specialist Disability Accommodation resident, supported independent living, disability support, reportable deaths, natural causes |

INTRODUCTION

1. On 1 October 2025, Ms Amanda Joy Taylor (**Ms Taylor**) was 61 years old when she passed away at 12 Porter Road Heidelberg Heights, Victoria.

THE CORONIAL INVESTIGATION

2. Ms Taylor's death fell within the definition of a reportable death in the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic) (**the Act**) as she was a 'person placed in custody or care' within the meaning of the Act, as a person with disability who received funded daily independent living support and resided in an SDA enrolled dwelling immediately prior to her death.¹
3. The role of a coroner is to independently investigate reportable deaths to establish, if possible, identity, medical cause of death, and surrounding circumstances. Surrounding circumstances are limited to events which are sufficiently proximate and causally related to the death. The purpose of a coronial investigation is to establish the facts, not to cast blame or determine criminal or civil liability.
4. This finding draws on the totality of the coronial investigation into the death of Amanda Joy Taylor. Whilst I have reviewed all the material, I will only refer to that which is directly relevant to my findings or necessary for narrative clarity. In the coronial jurisdiction, facts must be established on the balance of probabilities.²

MATTERS IN RELATION TO WHICH A FINDING MUST, IF POSSIBLE, BE MADE

Circumstances in which the death occurred

5. Ms Taylor resided at 12 Porter Road, Heidelberg Heights from 30 May 2023 until the date of her death. This is a supported accommodation facility managed by Villa Maria Catholic Homes.
6. Ms Taylor's relevant medical history included advanced relapsing multiple sclerosis and recurrent aspiration pneumonia.

¹ This class of person is prescribed as a 'person placed in custody or care' under the *Coroners Regulations 2019* (Vic), r 7(1)(d).

² Subject to the principles enunciated in *Briginshaw v Briginshaw* (1938) 60 CLR 336. The effect of this and similar authorities is that coroners should not make adverse findings against, or comments about, individuals unless the evidence provides a comfortable level of satisfaction as to those matters taking into account the consequences of such findings or comments.

7. Ms Taylor required assistance from carers in relation to activities of daily living including personal care, medication administration and feeding support. She was able to communicate her needs but was non-ambulant.
8. Ms Taylor also received medical treatment and support from a multidisciplinary team.
9. Ms Taylor was most recently admitted to Austin Hospital on 11 September 2025 in the setting of increased respiratory distress and hypoxia. In consultation with Ms Taylor and her partner, she was discharged back to her supported living facility for comfort care.
10. Ms Taylor was located deceased by carers on the morning of 1 October 2025.

Identity of the deceased

11. On 1 October 2025, Amanda Joy Taylor, born 14/12/1963, visually identified by a support worker, Ms Akeju.
12. Identity is not in dispute and requires no further investigation.

Medical cause of death

13. Forensic Pathologist Dr Chong Zhou from the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) conducted an external examination on 2 October 2025 and provided a written report of her findings dated.
14. Dr Zhou provided an opinion that the medical cause of death was 1(a) complications of advanced relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (palliated).
15. Dr Zhou provided an opinion that the cause of death was due to natural causes.
16. I accept Dr Zhou's opinion.

FINDINGS

17. Pursuant to section 67(1) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic) I make the following findings:
 - a) the identity of the deceased is Amanda Joy Taylor, born 14/12/1963;
 - b) her death occurred on 1/10/2025 at 12 Porter Road Heidelberg Heights Victoria 3081 from 1a complications of advanced relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (palliated); and

- c) her death occurred in the circumstances described above.
18. Having considered all the available evidence, I find that Ms Taylor's death was from natural causes and that no further investigation is required. As such, I have exercised my discretion under section 52(3A) of the Act not to hold an inquest into her death and to finalise the investigation of Ms Taylor's death.
19. I convey my sincere condolences to Ms Taylor's family, loved ones and carers for their loss.
20. Pursuant to section 73(1B) of the Act, I order that this finding be published on the Coroners Court of Victoria website in accordance with the rules.

I direct that a copy of this finding be provided to the following:

Joseph O'Keane, Senior Next of Kin

Senior Constable Rebekah Brough, Coronial Investigator

Signature:



Coroner Kate Despot

Date: 03 June 2026

NOTE: Under section 83 of the *Coroners Act 2008* ('the Act'), a person with sufficient interest in an investigation may appeal to the Trial Division of the Supreme Court against the findings of a coroner in respect of a death after an investigation. An appeal must be made within 6 months after the day on which the determination is made, unless the Supreme Court grants leave to appeal out of time under section 86 of the Act.
