

**Statement of support from the Victorian Government for the Coronial Council of Victoria's
*Review into reportable deaths***

I thank the Coronial Council of Victoria (the Council) for its work in reviewing, and making recommendations on, matters of critical importance to our coronial system. The expertise and experience of the Council's members is invaluable to informing this work.

The Council's *Review into reportable deaths in Victoria* report raises, and responds to, a number of issues central to the operation of the coronial system.

This report recognises the coronial system can be complex to navigate for a range of stakeholders. In particular, practitioners face challenges interpreting and applying the definition of a 'reportable death' in the *Coroners Act 2008 (Vic)*.

This is of critical importance to the coronial system as this definition determines which deaths must be reported and investigated by coroners and forensic pathologists.

The report highlights that a lack of certainty about whether a death should be reported can increase the number of cases referred to the Coroners Court of Victoria (the Court), placing additional strain on available resources. I note the Council's recommendation that it conduct further work to analyse the need to clarify the definition of 'reportable death.' I support the important development of clearer rules and guidelines for all coronial, health, medical, and police stakeholders who bear the important responsibility for reporting deaths in Victoria.

The Council also makes a number of recommendations regarding the need for more effective monitoring and surveillance to detect and respond to patterns of deaths in care settings. Improved monitoring and surveillance can improve data available to the Court, in turn informing insights into preventing future deaths. It will also create greater visibility of deaths which should be reported, ensuring the coronial system is able to focus on investigating those deaths which are of the greatest public benefit.

Noting the numerous cross-portfolio intersections, further policy work will be required, including stakeholder consultation, to realise the system changes recommended by the Council. The Victorian Government will undertake the necessary detailed work to determine how to better monitor deaths and ensure the community benefits from appropriate death investigations.

I look forward to continued engagement with the Council, and lead agencies, on progressing this important work.



Jaclyn Symes MP
Attorney-General
Minister for Resources
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