

Statement of support from the Victorian Government for the Coronial Council of Victoria's Review into the appropriate and responsive care of deaths in multicultural and multifaith communities

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 the appropriate and responsive care of deaths in multicultural and multifaith communities* raises, and responds to, a number of issues relating to the experiences of bereaved families and, in particular, multicultural and multifaith communities.

I recognise that Victorian families engage with the coronial process at a traumatic time. I am committed to supporting initiatives that improve their experiences. The Council's report provides a valuable base for realising this improvement.

In particular, this report recognises the majority of religions observe end-of-life rites, which can sometimes be at odds with the coronial process. Victoria has rich cultural and religious diversity and I am committed to ensuring multicultural and multifaith communities are supported to observe their beliefs and practices.

This review recommends system changes that will ensure better engagement with, and improved experiences for, these communities within the coronial process.

I support the Council's recommendations, which include to increase engagement opportunities between the Coroners Court and the multicultural and multifaith communities; to provide onsite multifaith and multicultural engagement officers at the Court; and for greater incorporation of cultural and religious rights within the coronial process.

Noting the numerous cross-portfolio intersections, further policy work will be required, including stakeholder consultation, to realise the system changes recommended by the Council. These are important matters and the Victorian Government will now undertake this further work to determine the best approach to realising the improvements recommended by the Council.

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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