

FORM 37

Rule 60(1)

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

Court reference: 3698/09

Inquest into the Death of ARTHUR MOUMAS

Delivered On: 11th October, 2010

Delivered At: Coroners Court Hearing Room,
Level 1, 436 Lonsdale Street,
Melbourne 3000

Hearing Dates: 11th October, 2010

Findings of: JUDGE JENNIFER COATE

Place of death: The Geelong Hospital, Ryrie Street, Geelong 3220

Police Coronial
Support Unit (PCSU): Leading Senior Constable Remo Antolini

FORM 37

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FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

Court reference: 3698/09

In the Coroners Court of Victoria at Melbourne

I, JUDGE JENNIFER COATE, State Coroner

having investigated the death of:

Details of deceased:

Surname: MOUMAS
First name: ARTHUR
Address: Colanda Residential Services, Forest Street, Colac 3250

AND having held an inquest in relation to this death on 11th October, 2010 at Melbourne

find that the identity of the deceased was ARTHUR MOUMAS and death occurred on 30th July, 2009

at The Geelong Hospital, Ryrie Street, Geelong 3220

from

1a. ASPIRATION PNEUMONIA

in the following circumstances:

1. Arthur Moumas was born on April 23, 1970. He had a severe intellectual disability from birth. At the age of 6, he was admitted to Colanda Residential Services on July 13, 1978 as his parents were unable to care for all of his physical and health needs at home.¹ He was placed in the Unit that was for those who needed maximum care.

2. Arthur was 39 at the time of his death. He had a range of health and nursing issues such as thoracic lumbar scoliosis, epilepsy and osteoporosis. He was being fed by a Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy. He had frequent bouts of pneumonia and pressure care area needs. He had no use of his limbs, little communication and his severe kyphoscoliosis made it hard to interpret any physical signs.²

¹ Statement of John Moumas 13.10. 2009 : (Brother of Arthur)

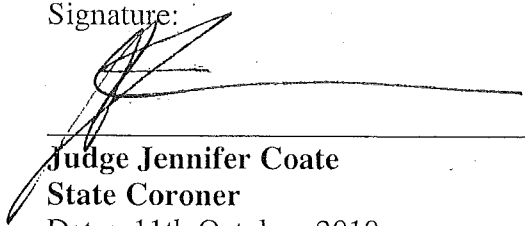
² Statement of Dr Paul Mestitz : October 8, 2009

3. On March 17, 2009 he was diagnosed with a fracture of the upper left tibia caused by his osteoporotic condition. He received medical treatment for this fracture but due to his condition it would not heal and surgery was considered not viable for him.
4. On April 22, 2009, the 9th May and 16 June, Arthur was diagnosed with pneumonia. He was treated with antibiotics on each occasion.
5. On July 25, 2009 Arthur was observed to cough up a large amount of blood. He was again prescribed antibiotics for pneumonia and the blood was diagnosed as being the result of a burst blood vessel. He had two more observed episodes of coughing up blood on 26 and 27 July, 2009 but appeared otherwise settled and the antibiotic treatment continued.
6. However, on July 28, 2009 he was taken to Colac Area Health casualty due to increased coughing of blood. A chest x-ray at Colac showed opacification of the right lung. From there he was transferred to Geelong Hospital. On the evening of his transfer he was found to be coughing up blood stained sputum. A diagnosis of pneumonia was confirmed. He was placed on intravenous drip, antibiotics, oxygen and suctioning.
7. His condition deteriorated on July 30 developing acute respiratory failure. He passed away at 10.40 that day.
8. The family, through Arthur's brother John, have indicated that the family did not ever have any concerns for Arthur in the care of Colanda. In fact, John Moumas indicated in his statement that the family had nothing but high praise for the care that Arthur received by all staff associated with his care including those at Geelong Hospital.

CONCLUSION:

9. I find that Arthur Moumas, suffering from a number of underlying health and physically disabling conditions, suffered a series of bouts of pneumonia in the last months of his life whilst living in residential accommodation through Colanda Residential Services. On July 30, 2009 whilst being treated for pneumonia at Geelong Hospital, he descended into severe respiratory failure and passed away on that day. His family expressed high praise for the way Arthur was cared for by all of the staff responsible for his care.

Signature:



Judge Jennifer Coate
State Coroner

Date: 11th October, 2010