

IN THE CORONERS COURT
OF VICTORIA
AT MELBOURNE

Court Reference: 3025 / 2012

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

Form 37 Rule 60(1)

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

Inquest into the Death of: Jamie Peoples

Delivered On: 29 May 2013

Delivered At: Melbourne Coroners Court, Level 11, 222 Exhibition
Street,
Melbourne

Hearing Dates: 29 May 2013

Findings of: IAIN WEST, DEPUTY STATE CORONER

Representation:

Police Coronial Support Unit Sergeant Sharon Wade

I, IAIN WEST, Deputy State Coroner having investigated the death of Jamie Peoples

AND having held an inquest in relation to this death on 29 May 2012

at Melbourne Coroners Court, Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street, Melbourne Vic 3000

find that the identity of the deceased was Jamie Peoples

born on 8 November 2008

and the death occurred on 25 June 2012

at The Northern Hospital, 185 Cooper Street, Epping Vic 3076

from:

1 (a) Respiratory failure

1 (b) Spastic quadriplegia and cerebral palsy

in the following circumstances:

1. Jamie Peoples was aged 3 years and seven months at the time of his death and a client of the Department of Human Services due to suffering significant medical conditions, including quadriplegia and cerebral palsy. As Jamie was in the 'custody or guardianship of the Secretary to the Department' his death was required to be reported to the coroner, pursuant to the *Coroners Act 2008*.

2. Over his short life, Jamie was placed in the loving care of his maternal grandmother and her partner, as his parents had little contact with him. Jamie was provided a high level of care by his grandmother, as he was hearing and sight impaired and required feeding to be done through a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG tube). In addition, Jamie was engaged with a speech therapist and occupational therapist and he required genetic, neurology, ophthalmology and hearing services. Despite the challenges confronting him, Jamie was a happy child who routinely interacted with his extended family.

3. In 2012, Jamie's health underwent a significant deterioration, as his major organs were failing. He was admitted to The Northern Hospital on the 13 March 2012 and was managed palliatively until he died on the 25 June, 2012. The positive impact Jamie had on those who knew him, was borne out by the large number of people who attended his funeral.

COMMENT

Pursuant to section 67(3) of the **Coroners Act 2008**, I make the following comment connected with the death:

4. There is no evidence before me to suggest that Jamie's management whilst in the care of the Department, his grandmother or The Northern Hospital, was other than within the parameters of reasonable health care practice.

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

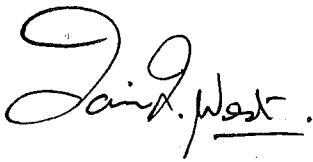
Family of Jamie Peoples

LSC Harrison

Department of Human Services

The Northern Hospital

Signature:



IAIN WEST
DEPUTY STATE CORONER
Date: **29 May 2012**