

IN THE CORONERS COURT  
OF VICTORIA  
AT MELBOURNE

Court Reference: 3045 / 2012

**FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST**

*Form 37 Rule 60(1)*

*Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008*

**Inquest into the Death of:** Trudi Newman

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	S/C Sharon Wade

I, IAIN WEST, Deputy State Coroner having investigated the death of Trudi Newman  
AND having held an inquest in relation to this death on 29 May 2013  
at Melbourne Coroners Court, Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street, Melbourne  
find that the identity of the deceased was Trudi Annabelle Newman  
born on 7 November 1970  
and the death occurred on 8 April 2012  
at Bendigo Hospital, Lucan Street, Bendigo, Vic 3550

**from:**

- 1 (a) Aspiration pneumonia
- 1 (b) Intellectual disability
- 1 (c)
- 2 Bipolar disorder, epilepsy

**in the following circumstances:**

1. Ms Newman was a 41 year old woman at the time of her death who resided at a Department of Human Services special accommodation residence, located at 11 Magazine Street, Eaglehawk. Ms Newman was a client of the Department due to her intellectual disability and accordingly, as she was in the 'care or custody of the Secretary to the Department' her death was required to be reported to the coroner, pursuant to the *Coroners Act 2008*.
2. On the 4 April 2012, Ms Newman returned unwell from her day placement, resulting in Department staff calling for ambulance attendance and her admission to Bendigo Hospital. Ms Newman's condition continued to deteriorate over the coming days and in consultation with family, palliative measures were initiated. Ms Newman subsequently died during the evening of the 8 April 2012.

COMMENT

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

3. There is no evidence before me to suggest that her management whilst in the care of the Department of Human Services, or that her treatment at Bendigo 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 Ms Newman

LSC Harrison

Department of Human Services

Bendigo Hospital

Signature:

*Iain West*



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IAIN WEST  
DEPUTY STATE CORONER  
Date: 29 May 2013