



**Deputy Premier of Western Australia  
Minister for Health**

Our Ref: 25-46932

PERTH CORONERS COURT

25 SEP 2015

RECEIVED

Ms Dawn Wright  
Manager Listings  
Office of the State Coroner  
Level 10, Central Law Courts  
501 Hay Street  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Wright

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2015 regarding the inquest finding for Baby B, which informed me of the recommendation made by Coroner Linton.

The Department of Health's Coronial Liaison Unit coordinates WA Health's response to the State Coroner on action taken with respect to the recommendations arising from coronial inquests. As part of this process, the Coronial Review Committee reviewed these findings on 28 July 2015 and relevant stakeholders subsequently provided a response against the recommendation.

*Recommendation 1 – I recommend that the North Metropolitan Health Service give consideration to improving the method of recording the result of the mandatory obstetric review required by Community Midwifery Program policy so that it is easily accessible for all health professionals in the pregnancy record. I also recommend that the Community Midwifery Program Discharge Form be amended to include a section confirming the birth plan and the obstetrician who has approved it, as well as a section indicating whether the birth plan should be reconsidered due to any issues identified during the Maternal Fetal Assessment Unit admission.*

The North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS) has advised that the action to improve the recording of the mandatory obstetric review has been completed. The obstetric review is documented in the patient record and signed by the obstetrician reviewing the mother. King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) has introduced a "Non-Standard Management Plan" sticker which is used throughout KEMH, including the Maternal Fetal Assessment Unit, to document when the mother declines to accept the management plan outlined by the obstetrician. This sticker, which is signed by the obstetrician and the mother, is placed in the patient record to ensure it is accessible to all practitioners providing care.

The action to amend the Community Midwifery Program Discharge Form is noted and in progress. It is anticipated that this will be completed by the end of October 2015.

Furthermore, the Community Midwifery Program has transitioned from the NMHS Public Health and Ambulatory Care directorate to KEMH under the governance structure of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinical Care Unit, effective 1 July 2015.

Any further actions taken by WA Health services in relation to the recommendations will be included in the Coronial Liaison Unit's routine six-monthly reports to the State Coroner. I trust that this information will assist the Coroner to fulfil the annual reporting requirements to the Attorney General.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kim Hames MLA  
**DEPUTY PREMIER**  
**MINISTER FOR HEALTH**  
22 SEP 2015