

23/07/2024

Mr Gerard Hayes  
Secretary  
Health Services Union

By email: secretary@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes

I am writing to advise you of the proposed introduction of a Natural Causes Pathway as a strategy to more efficiently process natural cause deaths in Forensic Medicine to improve the service to bereaved families. These natural cause deaths equate to approximately 55% of all referrals to the coronial system.

The introduction of the Natural Causes Pathway will enable the streaming of all referrals into either the natural pathway or unnatural pathway. The Natural Causes Pathway will be resourced by an additional 1.6 FTE Career Medical Officers and an additional 0.3 FTE Clinical Nurse Consultant.

By supplementing the medical and nursing workforce to support the natural causes pathway, the aim is to reduce the time involved in natural causes deaths for the Forensic Pathologists. Clinical Nurse Consultants currently employed in Forensic Medicine support the workflow for natural cause deaths. Consultation has commenced with our staff across Forensic Medicine.

We seek your response to this proposed change by Friday 9th August 2024. If there is no comment or feedback provided, the proposed changes will be implemented after this date.

If you have any questions, please contact myself or Yasmin Fashik, Associate Director Human Resources on 0409 646 130.

Sincerely



Michael Symonds  
Director, Forensic & Analytical Science Service  
NSW Health Pathology

cc: Dr Lorraine Du Toit-Prinsloo – Chief Forensic Pathologist and Clinical Director FASS  
Vanessa Shaw – Acting Operations Director, Forensic Medicine FASS  
Yasmin Fashik – Associate Director, Human Resources FASS