

Janice Chia

From: Fiona Hawthorne <Fiona.Hawthorne@health.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 25 September 2014 4:42 PM
To: Heidi Carr
Subject: RE: Possible amendments to the Coroners Act 2003 regarding the investigation of stillbirths
Attachments: qmoqc-report-2013-part-2_2.pdf
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Hi Heidi,

I'll answer your questions below:

1. Are you able to advise whether consideration has been or will be given to reinstating RCA's as a central requirement where there is concern with the obstetric or perinatal care provided? The current Health Service Directive does not prescribe an RCA as a primary tool for the analysis for any adverse clinical incident. Each HHS is able to decide how they wish to analysis these incidents. RCA is one tool for the analysis of adverse clinical incidents. There are a number of others: HEAPS, morbidity & mortality meetings, case reviews amongst others.
2. Also, I note there was an internal review/investigation following the Rockhampton case. Are you able to advise whether the outcome is part of the reason for the issues paper? No, the issues paper was in development prior to the Rockhampton case.
3. In addition, are you able to provide me with further information regarding the RCA process in the context of stillbirths or direct me to where I can locate this information? The challenge with stillbirth is that it does not meet the definition of a reportable event under the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*, therefore any RCA commissioned for a stillbirth does not attract privilege. I'm happy to chat this bit through. It can be a bit wordy for an email.

We also have the Qld Maternal & Perinatal Quality Council which reports to the Queensland Health Minister, and has a quality agenda which encompasses both public and private sectors. It is a gazetted quality committee under Part 6, Sections 81 - 92 (Quality Assurance Committees) of the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*. Membership includes representation from neonatology, obstetrics, midwifery, neonatal nursing, specialist obstetrics/maternal fetal medicine, general practice obstetrics, Indigenous health, academic/research, consumer representation.

I have attached the section from their latest report for you to review. The link for the full report is:
http://www.health.qld.gov.au/carunetworks/qmpqc_publications.asp

The QMPQC's purposes are to:

- Collect and analyse clinical information regarding maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity in Queensland to identify state-wide and facility-specific trends
- Make recommendations to the Minister for Health on standards and quality indicators of maternal and perinatal clinical care to enable health providers in Queensland to improve safety and quality
- Assist with the adoption of such standards in both public and private sectors

Let me know if you need any further information or want to have a chat about RCA and stillbirths.

Thanks, Fiona

From: Heidi Carr [mailto:Heidi.Carr@justice.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Thursday, 18 September 2014 4:41 PM

To: Fiona Hawthorne

Subject: RE: Possible amendments to the Coroners Act 2003 regarding the investigation of stillbirths

Hi Fiona,

Thank you very much for your response.

Further to the information provided, are you able to advise whether consideration has been or will be given to reinstating RCA's as a central requirement where there is concern with the obstetric or perinatal care provided? Also, I note there was an internal review/investigation following the Rockhampton case. Are you able to advise whether the outcome is part of the reason for the issues paper?

In addition, are you able to provide me with further information regarding the RCA process in the context of stillbirths or direct me to where I can locate this information?

If you are not in a position to respond to the above, can you please advise who might be the appropriate person to direct my questions?

Kind regards,

Heidi Carr

Policy Advisor

Strategic Policy

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Ph: 3239 6878

From: Fiona Hawthorne [<mailto:Fiona.Hawthorne@health.qld.gov.au>]

Sent: Thursday, 18 September 2014 4:07 PM

To: Heidi Carr

Cc: Erin Finn

Subject: RE: Possible amendments to the Coroners Act 2003 regarding the investigation of stillbirths

Hello Heidi,

Thank you for your email. Unfortunately we have not yet been able to significantly progress the review of existing mechanisms to review stillbirths in the public health system. We have drafted an issues paper to canvass support to strengthen legislation to remove any doubt that intrapartum stillbirths can be the subject of legally protected root cause analysis. We hope to be able to finalise that paper for stakeholder consultation next month. I'm not sure of any additional role for the Health Ombudsman and would suggest that would be best discussed directly with them.

Kind regards, Fiona

Fiona Hawthorne PhD, Churchill Fellow

Principal Project Officer

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Department of Health | Queensland Government

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From: Heidi Carr [mailto:Heidi.Carr@justice.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 15 September 2014 4:59 PM
To: Fiona Hawthorne
Subject: Possible amendments to the Coroners Act 2003 regarding the investigation of stillbirths

Dear Fiona,

I am the officer within the Strategic Policy and Legal Services division of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General who is currently considering possible amendments to the *Coroners Act 2003* regarding the investigation of stillbirths. As you may recall, Amber Manwaring was previously responsible for this matter.

NP_Sch3(2)(1)(b)

I note that the Honourable Lawrence Springborg MP provided a submission dated 13 August 2013 in relation to this matter, and I just wanted to ascertain what, if anything, has changed or improved since such time, and in addition to the previous mechanisms outlined, whether there is an additional role for the Health Ombudsman regarding the investigation of stillbirths.

Kind regards,

Heidi Carr
Policy Advisor
Strategic Policy
Department of Justice and Attorney-General
Ph: 3239 6878

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