

29 May 2003

**Mr S. Davis**  
**First Assistant Secretary**  
**Unauthorised Arrivals and Detention**  
**Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs**  
**PO Box 25**  
**Belconnen ACT 2616**

Dear Steve

**RE: Coroner's Report into the Death of Detainee Puongtong SIMAPLEE**

I refer to your letter dated 21 May 2003 regarding the above matter.

Attached is a letter dated 20 May 2003, to Mr Greg Kelly, which outlines ACM's actions in relation to the Coroner's findings in the Simaplee case.

I believe it addresses the issues you have raised in your letter.


If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards



**Ross Millican**  
**A/Managing Director**

20 May 2003

 **FAXED**  
20 May 03



DETE

DETE

Greg Kelly  
Unauthorised Arrivals and Detention Division  
Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs  
PO Box 25  
BELCONNEN ACT

Dear Mr Kelly

**Modifications to Medical Treatment at Villawood IDC**

Prior to the publication of the Coroners Report on the death of Ms Simaplee at Villawood IDC a number of modifications to medical procedures were undertaken particularly with regards to the treatment of incoming detainees with a serious drug addiction.

This has included hospital assessment of detainees with similar symptoms presented by Ms Simaplee. If the hospital deemed that the detainee could adequately be cared for outside of the hospital then on their advice ACM would resume treatment at the Centre. Other details with regards to recommendations made in the Coroners Report include:

**Recommendation 1**

All medication used in the treatment of detainees is prescribed by an appropriately qualified medical practitioner, based on clinical indications and findings. A medical practitioner will reserve the right to order such medication as he/she sees fit and appropriate in the circumstances of each case.

Largactil is not listed as recommended medication management in ACM's Adult Emergency Guidelines and Nursing Protocol no.16, Drug and Alcohol Withdrawal Regimen. These Guidelines and Nursing Protocols were reissued in June 2002.

**Recommendation 2**

ACM Detention Services Health Services Operating Manual was reissued in August 2002.

- Policy No. 3.6, Continuity of Care, states that:

*"The health record will contain all current information on acute and chronic medical problems, allergies and the detainee's mental health evaluation. These will be reflected in the doctor's and nurses' notes, results of investigations and consultations etc."*

- Policy No. 6.0, Care Planning, states that:  
*"Where detainees have documented health care problems a co-ordinated plan of care, incorporating goals, is developed through collaboration between detainees and the health care team to achieve desired outcomes."*
- Policy No. 6.1, Implementation of Care, states that:  
*"Care is timely, appropriate and is delivered according to professional standards and statutory requirements."*
- Policy No. 6.11, Alcohol and Drug Services - Detoxification, states that:  
*"The detainee should be assessed and managed as per Emergency Protocol No.16 Drug and Alcohol Withdrawal regimen."*
- Policy No. 8.0, Information Management states that:  
(It's purpose is) *"to provide guidelines for the efficient provision, maintenance and management of information relating to detainee health care", and*  
*"...every detainee has a medical file which is sufficiently detailed to enable continuity of care, evaluation, education, research and medico-legal integrity."*

### **Recommendation 3**

ACM concurs with the findings of the Deputy Coroner that it is inappropriate for detention officers to take medical observations, and this practice is not in place in detention centres. The detention officers record At Risk Watch Logs in accordance with Detention Services Operating Manual policy 7.1 At Risk/Self Harm/Suicide Management, reissued August 2002. These are not our medical observations.

Further to these actions ACM will continue to provide in-service training to staff on the above.

If you would like to discuss any of these issues further please call Janette Lipman on 02 9262 0250.

Yours sincerely



Shaun Finegan  
Executive General Manager  
Detention Services