

Important Points from project closure report :-

- Medical practitioners have an obligation to report deaths to the SA Coroner under the Coroners Act 2003. However, there have been issues with reporting deaths, including not reporting when required, lack of information on the reporting form, poor quality of information on the form, and a high number of phone calls seeking direction on reporting.
- There is also a concern that interns are not completing the reporting form correctly, resulting in unnecessary post-mortems.
- SA Health conducted a compliance audit and recommended the development of an e-learning training module to improve reporting. The module was created and launched state-wide, with over 500 doctors and 112 nursing staff completing the training.
- Feedback on the training has been positive, with participants reporting an average increase in knowledge of 51%. The project is considered closed, but ongoing monitoring and review of the training are recommended.
- The issues with reporting deaths to the SA Coroner include not reporting a death that should have been reported, lack of information on the reporting form, poor quality of information on the form, a high number of phone calls seeking direction on reporting, and interns incorrectly or incompletely completing the reporting form, leading to unnecessary post-mortems.
- The recommendation from the compliance audit was for SA MET to develop a coronial reporting e-learning training module to be made available to all medical staff and other work groups such as nurses and midwives where relevant. The module was to include a frequently asked question document and examples of case studies within the training to assist clinicians in identifying when to refer a death to the SA Coroner.
- As of September 30, 2018, nearly 500 doctors have completed the online training, and 112 nursing staff have also completed the evaluation of the training.
- The recommendation for ongoing monitoring of the training is for SA MET to continue monitoring the results from the survey, with the cooperation of the Local Health Networks (LHNs), to ensure that the objectives of the training are being met. The numbers of medical officers completing the training will be reported to the EDMS committee on a quarterly basis. If the numbers of medical officers completing the training do not continue to grow, further communication will be undertaken, such as the Chief Medical Officer sending out reminders and the EDMS reminding medical officers.