

NOTIFICATION OF CORONER'S DECISION NOT TO OPEN INQUIRY**Section 64(1), Coroners Act 2006****IN THE MATTER of Suqing Ji****The Secretary**, Ministry of Justice, Wellington

I notify you pursuant to section 64(1) of the Coroners Act 2006 of my decision not to open an inquiry in respect of the death of:

Full Name of deceased: Suqing Ji
Late of: 10 Jonathan Place
Sunnynook
Auckland
Occupation: Retired
Sex: Female
Date of Birth: 13 December 1939

The following matters are adequately disclosed in respect of the death by information arising from investigations or examinations I have made or caused to be made:

Place of Death: Glenfield Leisure Centre
77 Bentley Avenue
Glenfield
Auckland
New Zealand

Date of Death: 10 August 2020

Cause(s) of Death

- (a). Direct cause: Haemopericardium
(b). Antecedent cause (if known): Dissection of ascending aorta
(c). Underlying condition (if known):
(d). Other significant conditions contributing to death, but not related to disease or condition causing it (if known):

Circumstances of Death:

Background:

1. Suqing Ji, aged 80, died while swimming in a pool at the Glenfield Leisure Centre on 10 August 2020. Mrs Ji was reported to have little in the way of medical history, and it was not clear whether her death was the result of drowning or whether she died because of a medical event. Because of this, her death was referred to the national duty coroner who accepted jurisdiction under the Coroners Act 2006. The duty coroner directed that a post-mortem be performed to identify the cause of Mrs Ji's death.

Post-mortem examination:

2. Forensic pathologist Dr Glenn completed a lesser post-mortem that consisted of a CT scan, toxicology testing and an external examination. Dr Glenn advises that Mrs Ji died of hemopericardium, or blood in the pericardial sac around the heart. This was caused by an ascending aortic dissection which is a tear in a large blood vessel in the heart. I accept Dr Glenn's advice regarding the cause of Mrs Ji's death.

Police enquiries:

3. The police, as is standard practice in a sudden death, made enquiries after Mrs Ji passed away. The police have confirmed, through the inquest officer, that there are no suspicious or untoward circumstances regarding her death.

Other matters:

4. Mrs Ji became unconscious while swimming in a public pool. Assistance was provided by a member of the public and by a pool attendant, who tried to resuscitate her while waiting for emergency services to arrive. Camera footage from the pool facility indicates that several minutes elapsed between the time that Mrs Ji first lost consciousness in the water and the time that resuscitation attempts were commenced.
5. In determining the circumstances of Mrs Ji's death, I considered the time frame for her rescue from the pool. I sought further information from Dr Glenn on this issue. He has advised me that in Mrs Ji's circumstances the timing would not have had any impact on the outcome and that she would not have survived even this had occurred more quickly.
6. I also sought further information from Auckland City Council, which is responsible for managing the Glenfield Leisure Centre. The Council has advised me that although the timeframe for identifying that Mrs Ji was in difficulty in the water was at the upper end of expectations, the response time and the steps subsequently taken were consistent with the approved policies, procedures and lifeguard training that were in place. An internal review of the events concluded that the procedures were adequately followed, and that the staff response was good. Some general opportunities for improvement and continuous development were identified and actions related to these are being implemented. I am satisfied with the steps that have been taken in this regard.

Decision:

7. I have reviewed the coronial and police files and have considered the information provided by the pathologist and Auckland City Council. I am satisfied that Mrs Ji died of natural causes, being hemopericardium resulting from an ascending aorta dissection. I am also satisfied that all the matters required to be established by me under section 57(2) of the Coroners Act 2006 have been established and the circumstances relating to Mrs Ji's death do not require an inquiry to be opened.
8. I extend my sincere condolences to Mrs Ji's family and friends.

Signed at Auckland on 29th day of June 2021.



Coroner J Anderson

10/08/2020

Auckland Council
Glenfield Pool and Leisure Centre
73-77 Bentley Avenue
Glenfield
Auckland

Attn: s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

Our reference: 5788303

In accordance with section 56 (5) (b) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, we acknowledge that we have received your telephone notification of 10/08/2020 regarding a death at the Glenfield Pool & Leisure Centre and have recorded the details. If we require further information, we will be in contact.

For more information about notifications visit our website www.worksafe.govt.nz or call 0800 030 040 to speak to a Customer Operational Servicing Centre Agent.

Yours Sincerely,

s9(2)(a)
Customer Operational Servicing Centre Agent
Operational Excellence
s9(2)(a)@worksafe.govt.nz

s9(2)(a)

From: Healthsafety Notification
Sent: Monday, 10 August 2020 11:06 am
To: s9(2)(a) Te Pou Ora; Worksafe Investigations Managers;
Ministerial Services – WorkSafe; s9(2)(a) WorkSafe Media
Cc: s9(2)(a)
Subject: 5788303 Response File - Fatality Notification [IN-CONFIDENCE]
Importance: High

Date of Incident: 10/08/2020
Time of Incident: 10:30:53 a.m.
Guardian File ID: 5788303

Industry: unstated

Legal Entity Name(s):

Address of Accident: **73-77 Bentley Avenue Glenfield Auckland 0629**

Accident Details: Sergeant s9(2)(a) from New Zealand Police reports that they are attending a **death of a 65 year old woman at Glenfield Pool and Leisure Centre** in 73-77 Bentley Avenue, Glenfield, Auckland 0629. **Cause of death is possibly drowning.** No ambulance contact provided. **Contact number of the officer attending is s9(2)(a)** (No name provided). Unknown if the facility is managed by local council or through contracted private entity. s9(2)(a) would like to know if WorkSafe will also be attending the event. s9(2)(a) can be contacted at s9(2)(a)

Mechanism of Injury:

Nature of Injury:

Name of other agencies investigating (if applicable):

Released under the Official Information Act

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a) @police.govt.nz on behalf of DCC.Waitemata@nz
Sent: Monday, 10 August 2020 12:22 pm
To: Healthsafety Notification
Subject: Sudden death Glenfield leisure centre - P04325611

Good afternoon,

Further to the notification this morning about a sudden death at the Glenfield Leisure centre: Bentley Ave, Glenfield I am providing the deceased particulars as requested.

Deceased:

Suqing JI

DOB: 13/12/1939

10 Jonathan Place, Sunnynook

Husband:

s9(2)(a)

PH: s9(2)(a)

Regards

District Command Centre

Waitemata

P +s9(2)(a)

E DCC.Waitemata@police.govt.nz

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