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To <vplrc@parliament.vic.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject Enduring Powers of Attorney enquiries

To Whom it may concern regarding 'enquiries into enduring powers of attorney',

I have been a hospital social worker and are currently working within a senior social work position. I have encountered difficulty in the past with the following areas:

- Enduring powers of attorney being completed in the past and being titled as enduring power of attorney', although not having clear indication as to whether they cover's 'guardianship' areas. No specifications are often detailed on older existing EPOA documents. I have contacted both legal aid and the 'office of the public advocate' with no clarification.

- No clear guidelines as to whether EPOA's should be completed within a hospital setting, where a medical practitioner is not familiar with a patient or family. Obviously a hospital may have their own guidelines. Often it varies from doctor to doctor as to whether they will complete them on behalf of patients.

- Legal staff completing EPOA's, where patients have been deemed to not have 'decision making capacity' whilst an inpatient. (Family taking patients off site).

- Not having a central place where EPOA's are able to be located. Often where pt's have no next of kin or they have lost decision making capacity, it is difficult to locate a copy of EPOA's.

Regards,

Kate Varty  
Senior Social Worker  
[REDACTED]