

# EXHIBIT BK

30/04/2019

To:

Amber Richards Senior Solicitor **for Crown Solicitor**

**NSW Crown Solicitor's Office** | 60-70 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000

### **Inquiry into the Convictions of Kathleen Megan Folbigg**

Dear Amber, thank you for your question:

*"...whether the tests conducted thus far on Kathleen can exclude CPVT, and if not, whether there are any tests that could be conducted that would exclude it."*

#### **My response is as below:**

It is always difficult to bring the black and white yes/no world into the realities of clinical medicine and biological systems. The opposite of diagnosis made is often not diagnosis excluded, it just doesn't work like that. And every test must be made and interpreted in the full clinical context.

If we look at this as the evidence as we know it at this stage:

*Kathleen is over 50 and has not had a cardiac arrest*

*Assessments suggests she has never had what would be a likely arrhythmic syncope*

*Her four children all died during sleep*

*Her four children all died at an age before CPVT presents*

*She has had two exercise tests with no symptoms and no ventricular arrhythmias, other than a small number of isolated ventricular ectopic beats on one of them.*

*She does not have a recognised genetic variant linked to CPVT, in particular none in RyR2 or CASQ2.*

I am confident she does not have CPVT, and I would not recommend any further tests. If she presented clinically to me, or one of our group here in New Zealand, she would not have any further tests.

An Epinephrine challenge involves the infusion of epinephrine (adrenaline) by a standardised protocol to see if ventricular arrhythmias are induced, like with an exercise test. Most practitioners restrict the use of this to patients who cannot undergo an exercise test (eg young age, disability post cardiac arrest). It can be done, with consent, but I would not recommend it and it would not be recommended current clinical practice in this scenario. To my knowledge there have been no head-to-head evaluations of epinephrine test vs exercise test in terms of diagnostic sensitivity and

specificity, whereas the value of exercise testing for CPVT is well recognised, researched and established.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J.R. Skinner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jonathan R Skinner

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