



Tullio Farella, pictured with grandchildren Ethan, Alysha and Lu, died only hours after moving into an aged-care home.

He didn't even last one day

Grandfather died hours after moving into home

A FAMILY is considering suing a luxury Melbourne aged-care home over the unexplained death of a grandfather whose brain became "starved" of oxygen only hours after moving in.

Within seven hours, Tullio Farella, 81, went from being his usual "chirpy" self to comatose at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Doctors told his distressed family he had "no hope" of survival because his brain had been starved of oxygen, and he died several hours later.

His family suspect nursing staff at Rathdowne Place Aged Care in Carlton failed to check Mr Farella, a diabetic, after giving him an insulin injection on

ANEEKA SIMONIS

February 1, 2017. His daughter, Anna del Ciotto, said she was "haunted" by the decision to move him to the home.

"He didn't even last a day," she said.

"I feel so guilty I put him in this place ... like I gave them the licence to kill him."

A coronial inquiry into Mr Farella's death is under way, and will determine whether the family take legal action against the aged-care facility.

Tony Carbone, managing partner at Carbone Lawyers, said people should be able to trust their loved ones will be safe in care homes.

"From the moment he was

injected with insulin at 6pm to the time his daughter was called by nursing staff at 1am telling her he was critical ... in all probabilities no one checked on him," he said.

"If someone had checked on him, they would have seen his sugar was dropping quickly and could have given him something."

The 162-bed aged-care home will be thrust into the spotlight during the Royal Commission into Aged Care, Quality and Safety, which begins next week.

Ms Del Ciotto plans to submit evidence of her father's case to the commission, which was established to probe cases of elder abuse.

"We don't want to see this happen to anyone else," she said. "Dad's life was taken from us."

Ms Del Ciotto said the aged-care home was due to charge up to \$800,000 in care costs.

Australian Unity, which owns the aged-care home, said it took all such incidents "very seriously".

"While we are unable to comment on the specifics of this case because it is currently before the Coroner, Australian Unity takes all such incidents very seriously and has responded to all requests from the Coroner," it said.

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