



australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy

3 August 2016

Coroner's Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006
Email: cpureresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner,

Re: ASCIA response to Court ref COR 2012 004117

Thank you for your letter dated 3 May 2016 regarding the coronial recommendations for Jack Irvine. In response to recommendations, the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) has undertaken a number of activities and communications including:

- ASCIA has liaised with the Royal Australian College of Physicians (RACP) to further promote ASCIA's online education resources to paediatricians and physicians (Coronial recommendation 1).
- Met with the President of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) to discuss how ASCIA and the RACGP can work together to increase utilisation of ASCIA online education resources (Coronial recommendation 2).

The RACGP has agreed to work with ASCIA in the following ways:

- Include an ASCIA poster highlighting the recent changes to the ASCIA Action Plans at the RACGP conference in 2016.
 - Coordinate an anaphylaxis webinar using a clinical immunology/allergy specialist who is an ASCIA member.
 - Assist ASCIA to develop an anaphylaxis enhanced medical care plan for general practitioners (GPs) to use with their patients.
- ASCIA has developed a DL sized postcard which can be distributed to GPs, paediatricians and physicians to promote ASCIA online education resources. (Coronial recommendations 1 and 2).
 - ASCIA is currently undertaking a scoping project focussing on teens and young adults with food allergy. This project has been funded by the federal government and aims to inform us as to what information and resources are required for this target group. (Coronial recommendation 2).
 - ASCIA has reviewed and updated the ASCIA Action Plans and after consultation with the ASCIA membership and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia, the wording relating to asthma management has been updated to read as follows:

ASCIA is the peak professional body of clinical immunology and allergy specialists in Australia and New Zealand
Website: www.allergy.org.au ABN: 45 615 521 452 ACN: 608 798 241

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Office address: Suite 238, 117 Old Pittwater Road, Brookvale NSW 2100 Australia

“ALWAYS give adrenaline autoinjector FIRST, then asthma reliever if someone with known asthma and allergy to food, insects or medication has SUDDEN BREATHING DIFFICULTY (including wheeze, persistent cough or hoarse voice) even if there are no skin symptoms”.

Whilst ASCIA has reviewed the wording regarding asthma to ensure this information is clear and not confusing, all Action Plan content has been reviewed. Images regarding the positioning of a patient experiencing anaphylaxis have now been included emphasising this critical advice, which is currently often not followed. (Coronial recommendation 3).

ASCIA has released the updated Action Plans on its website this week:

www.allergy.org.au/health-professionals/anaphylaxis-resources/ascia-action-plan-for-anaphylaxis

All ASCIA anaphylaxis resources and e-training courses will be updated to be consistent with the revised ASCIA Action Plans and ASCIA will liaise with the National Asthma Council to ensure there is consistency of information between the ASCIA Action Plan and Asthma Action Plans.

- ASCIA has liaised with the office of the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services regarding anaphylaxis training for sporting clubs. ASCIA anaphylaxis e-training for community (first aid) is the most appropriate course for sporting clubs to undertake. This course is available free of charge from the ASCIA website and would require funding support should a recommendation or mandate be made that all sporting clubs should undertake this training course. Funding support would enable ASCIA to upgrade the e-training platform to cater for large numbers of participants to access the course.

It is important to note that whilst ASCIA anaphylaxis e-training for community does include information about risk minimisation, it is not a food service course and therefore does not address specific issues regarding food provision (preparation, serving and storage) to allergic individuals. ASCIA has received federal funding to consult with the food service sector to develop training resources regarding the safe food provision for allergic individuals. ASCIA will continue to consult with the Food Unit at the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services in the development of these resources.

We greatly appreciate these issues being brought to ASCIA's attention and we will continue to liaise with key stakeholders to ensure ASCIA resources provide accurate best practice information.

Please feel welcome to contact Jill Smith, ASCIA's Chief Executive Officer (education@allergy.org.au) should you require further information.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Melanie Wong
ASCIA President

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