



Secretary

Department of Health and Human Services

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Mr Josh Munro
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Mr Munro

INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF JACK G IRVINE – COR 2012 4117

Thank you for your letter of 3 May 2016 providing the Hon John Eren MP, Minister for Sport and the Hon Jill Hennessy MP, Minister for Health with a copy of Coroner Jamieson's Findings with Inquest including Recommendations, into the death of Jack Irvine. The Ministers have asked me to consider the Coroner's recommendation and reply on their behalf. I apologise for the delay in providing a response.

I note that the Coroner has determined that Mr Irvine died in circumstances that were preventable. The health and wellbeing of all Victorians is a priority of the Victorian Government and preventing catastrophic and traumatic injury while participating in sport and recreation activities is an area of focus for the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Coroner has recommended that the Hon John Eren, in his capacity as the Minister for Sport and in consultation with the Minister for Health, consider making the provision of grants under the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund conditional upon sporting clubs having policies and practices in place to require allergy and anaphylaxis training. The recommendation also required all staff, volunteers and employees to complete this training through, but not limited to, first aid training or online training provided by the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCI).

In response to this recommendation, I advise that applications to the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund (the program) are open only to local government authorities, not sporting clubs, for the purpose of supporting the construction of sports infrastructure rather than club operations. The program does not provide a suitable mechanism to require clubs to establish policies or practices or to stipulate that club members undertake allergy and anaphylaxis training.

Therefore, and in accordance with the Guidelines for Responding to Coroners' Recommendation(s), the department has determined that alternatives to the Coroner's recommendation have and will be implemented, as follows:

1. In response to the Coroner's recommendation, the department has incorporated allergy and anaphylaxis information and advice into the training that is currently being provided to Victorian sporting clubs as part of the delivery of 1000 Defibrillators for Sporting Clubs and Facilities program. This was initiated in July 2016, through the department's contracted partner, St John Ambulance.
2. The department will promote the currently available allergy and anaphylaxis training which is accessible online free of charge at the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy website, to all Victorian sporting clubs. This will be undertaken through both local government and state sporting association communication channels by highlighting the issue and including a link on the Sport and Recreation Victoria website. This will be completed by September 2016.

In Australia, while food handlers are not mandatorily required to undergo food handler training, under the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code they must have skills and knowledge in food safety and hygiene commensurate with their work activities. To meet this expectation the department established the Do Food Safely website in 2009, which provides a free online training tool aimed at food handlers. The training tool includes content on food allergen handling.

The department's Food Safety Unit is currently reviewing the Do Food Safely website, with a view to expanding its food allergen content, as part of a broader suite of initiatives designed to enhance food allergen and intolerance awareness and management in Victoria. This review is scheduled for completion by June 2017.

For information on sport and recreation safety related initiatives supported by the department please contact Mark Middleton, Senior Project Officer, Research and Performance, on telephone 9096 9893 or email mark.middleton@sport.vic.gov.au

Should your office require further information regarding the review of the Do Food Safely website, please contact Fiona Jones, Manager Regulation and Incident Management, Food Safety Unit on telephone 9096-5098 or email fiona.jones@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of the Ministers for Health and Sport, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Yours sincerely



Melissa Skilbeck
Acting Secretary

29.09.16