



Jenny Mikakos MP

Minister for Families & Children
Minister for Youth Affairs

GPO Box 4057
Melbourne Victoria 3001
DX: 210081
Telephone: 03 9096 0301
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au
www.education.vic.gov.au



COR033785

Kate Sanderson
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Ms Sanderson

Thank you for your letter to the Hon James Merlino MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, regarding State Coroner, Her Honour Judge Hinchey's finding with inquest into the death of Noah Zunde (Court Reference COR 2015 0846). As the matters raised fall within my portfolio responsibilities, the Deputy Premier has referred your letter to me for response.

On behalf of the Victorian Government, I would like to acknowledge the tragic circumstances of the death of Noah and extend my deepest sympathies to Noah's family, educators and community. I welcome your recommendations to guide our future work in an attempt to prevent the occurrence of similar tragedies.

You would also have recently received a response from Gill Callister, Secretary of the Department of Education and Training (the Department). As noted in the Secretary's response, the Department welcomes both recommendations and will work to address them as part of the 2017-18 *Never Leave Kids in Cars* campaign. The Victorian Government supports the approaches outlined in the Department's response.

The Victorian Government is committed to reducing the number of children left unattended in cars. I will ask my Department to continue to promote the important message that children should never be left in cars, whatever the circumstances, while increasing the messaging and focus on inadvertent leaving.

I look forward to working with my Department to build on the upcoming *Never Leave Kids in Cars* campaign in our efforts to reduce the number of children left unattended in cars. Raising awareness of the contributing factors of inadvertent leaving, and highlighting the potentially tragic consequences of leaving a child in any circumstance is a key step in achieving this important goal.

If you would like further information in relation to this matter you may contact Dr Stacey Gabriel, Director, Prevention and Health Promotion Branch, Department of Education and Training, on 03 9097 1197 or by email: gabriel.stacey.s@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jenny', with a large circular flourish on the left side.

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19/9/2017