

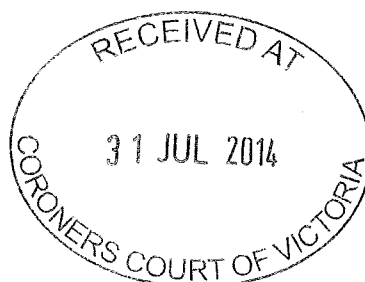


Minister for Education

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Ms Lidia Lo Guisto
The Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 11
222 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE 3000

28 JUL 2014

Dear Ms Lo Guisto

Investigation into the death of NATHAN FRANCIS

I write in further response to the Inquest findings and recommendations made on 1 June 2012 by the Coroners Court of Victoria in relation to the death of Nathan Francis.

In a letter dated 3 September 2012, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development advised that it was committed to addressing all of the recommendations made in this Inquest to assist in reducing the risk of anaphylaxis in Victorian schools.

As a result of this work, I am pleased to announce *Ministerial Order 706 - Anaphylaxis Management in schools* and the revised Anaphylaxis Guidelines came into effect on 22 April 2014 for all Victorian schools. Please find enclosed a copy of:

- *Ministerial Order 706 - Anaphylaxis Management in Victorian Schools*; and
- *Anaphylaxis Guidelines - A resource for Managing Severe Allergies in Victorian Schools*.

All Victorian schools that have a student enrolled with anaphylaxis are now required by law to:

- purchase spare or back up adrenaline auto-injection devices for general use; and
- complete an annual Risk Management Checklist in relation to their compliance with the Ministerial Order 706.

The Anaphylaxis Guidelines have been significantly redrafted to ensure that they are consistent with Ministerial Order 706, and provide additional guidance to schools in relation to implementing each of the requirements under the Order.

The Department has also successfully implemented a Communication Strategy for the release of Ministerial Order 706 and the associated Anaphylaxis Guidelines to all Victorian schools and key stakeholders.

In addition, the Department revised its website to include templates and resources to aid schools in their implementation of Ministerial Order 706 and the associated Anaphylaxis Guidelines. Further information about the website can be viewed at: www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/pages/anaphylaxischools.aspx

Victorian schools are leading the way nationally in providing support to students with severe, life threatening allergies. Our schools are well prepared to support students who have been diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis. Many schools have excellent strategies and procedures in place in line with the Anaphylaxis Guidelines. These changes will build on this good work.

If there are any further questions in relation to the management of anaphylaxis in Victorian schools, please contact Ms Kris Arcaro, Director, Wellbeing Health and Engagement Division, Early Childhood and School Education Group, Department of Education and Early Childhood, by phone on 9637 2012 or via email: arcaro.kris.f@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



The Hon. Martin Dixon, MP
Minister for Education