

Office of the Commissioner

CMIN042637  
Your ref: COR 2010 001291



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28 November 2012



Ms Audrey Jamieson, Coroner  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street  
MELBOURNE, VIC 3000

Dear Ms Jamieson

**Investigation into the death of Chanel J Peckham (COR 2010 001291)**

On 14 September 2012, you handed down your findings in relation to the tragic death of Chanel J Peckham. The findings have been referred to me for information however I would like take the opportunity to respond to your findings.

In the Chanel Peckham finding you do not make any specific recommendations however you do provide comment relevant to increasing the safety of children in or around a pool environment. Specifically, you support on page 10 four recommendations of Life Safety Victoria made in a submission to this investigation. They are:

- Continued programs for toddler water safety education;
- Placing into legislation a requirement to display at the poolside a sign displaying the current cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) procedures;
- A register of pools and spas; and
- Mandatory inspections of all pool and spa safety barriers every four years by licensed pool safety inspectors.

On 17 July 2012, Minister Guy hosted a pool safety summit attended by a number of key stakeholders including a representative from your office.

Five ideas were discussed at the summit:

- i. Establishment of a pool register.
- ii. Regular assessment of pool fences.
- iii. A targeted audit and compliance program.
- iv. An awareness campaign.
- v. Mandatory CPR signage.

The regular assessment of pool fences included three discussion points. The first being a cyclical assessment of all pool barriers at an as yet undetermined time period but every four years as recommended by Life Safety Victoria would be the maximum period of time considered. The second was a compliance certification of a pool barrier at the point of sale of a house and the third was a compliance certification of a pool barrier at the point of lease of a house. The attendees all endorsed the five ideas as worth pursuing. They are largely aligned with the Life Safety Victoria recommendations you supported in the Chanel Peckham inquiry findings.



The views from the summit will be used to further develop and refine any proposed reforms and further consultation with government agencies and industry bodies will be required before any potential legislative change can be introduced.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the important safety issue identified in your findings.

Yours sincerely



**Michael Kefford**  
Building Commissioner

Copy to: Mathew Guy, Minister for Planning