



# Department of Justice

Consumer Affairs Victoria



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Our ref: CD/12/521002

Ms Kate Doherty  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
Level 11  
222 Exhibition Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Ms Doherty

## **RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION RELATING TO THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF CHANEL PECKHAM**

I refer to your letter dated 14 September 2012 regarding the investigation by Coroner Jamieson into the death of Chanel Peckham.

I note that the Coroner made the following recommendation to Consumer Affairs Victoria:

“...that Consumer Affairs Victoria amend its tenancy forms and publications created for tenants and landlords to include regulatory information about pool barrier fencing.”

I advise that the Coroner's recommendation will be implemented.

Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) will include information about pool and spa barrier fencing:

- in the next iteration of CAV's publication, "*Renting a Home: A Guide for Tenants*", to be published December 2012; and
- on the CAV website ([www.consumer.vic.gov.au](http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au)) in December 2012.

Information in "*Renting a Home: A Guide for Tenants*" will encourage tenants contemplating the lease of a property with a pool or spa to consider seriously the safety issues involved. For more information, readers will be encouraged to visit the CAV website, which will refer to the relevant pool and spa barrier standards and the Building Commission's 2010 guide, "*What you need to know about swimming pool and spa safety barriers*".

In August 2012, line items for “pool fence and gate” and “spa fence and gate” were also added to the electronic version of CAV’s standard form condition report, available online at <http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/library/forms/housing-and-accommodation/renting/condition-report.pdf>. These additional line items are now also reflected in the printed form.

In addition, CAV will also improve landlords’ awareness of pool and spa safety issues by using its stakeholder networks to support property managers to encourage landlords to bring pool and spa barriers up to current standards, even if the pool is older and not technically required to meet those standards. This may include:

- education articles on realestate.com.au;
- joint communication activities with the Real Estate Institute of Victoria;
- promotion via CAV’s social media channels; and
- inclusion in CAV’s education presentations to prospective landlords.

Yours sincerely



**Phil D’Adamo**  
Acting Executive Director  
Consumer Affairs

26.11.12.