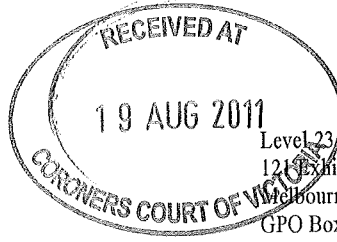


C. Spooner ①



# Department of Justice

Emergency Services Policy and Support Unit



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18 AUG 2011

Our ref: CD/11/287039

Ms Marika Norton  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Ms Norton

**Investigation into the death of Theam Chheng, Shida Li & Liangwei Wang, Court Ref: 3741/2009, 5959/2009, 6036/2009**

Thank you for your letter of 27 April 2011 enclosing the Coroner's recommendations arising from the investigation into the deaths of Theam Chheng, Shida Li and Liangwei Wang.

The Emergency Services Policy Unit of the Department of Justice (DOJ) manages the Government's Water Safety Program which incorporates the delivery of the Play it Safe by the Water (PISBTW) campaign. This campaign addresses the need for safe and responsible behaviour while enjoying Victoria's pools, beaches, rivers and lakes by increasing community awareness of water safety issues. DOJ, in partnership with Life Saving Victoria (LSV), continually monitors all drowning related deaths in Victoria and responds to any emerging trends with specific targeted campaigns and programs.

Officers of my Department have had discussions with LSV who advise that it welcomes the action items proposed in the Safety Management Plan for Rock Fishing prepared by the Coroners Prevention Unit and have responded to the Coroner's findings.

LSV has identified that wearing a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) should be a prominent communication focus in all public awareness messaging and as such will continue to communicate wearing of PFDs in all media and resources as a safety priority.

The water safety website [www.watersafety.vic.gov.au](http://www.watersafety.vic.gov.au) contains fact sheets and information relating to rock fishing and the use of PFDs. A press release on rock fishing called 'Don't put your Life on the Line' has been recently posted on the website.



LSV also supports the initiative of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community engagement through rock fishing education programs, cultural ambassadors and messaging in cultural-specific media.

In order to ensure the success of these components and in recognition of rock fishing safety as a priority for aquatic injury prevention, VRFish is now a partner of the Victorian Government's PISBTW campaign. Australian National Sportfishing Association and VRFish are also represented on the Heads of Water Safety Agencies which meets regularly to discuss water safety matters.

In regard to the implementation of Emergency Services Telecommunication Authority (ESTA) Emergency Markers, LSV and ESTA have written to the relevant local councils to encourage coastal land managers, local councils and Parks Victoria to implement the ESTA Emergency Markers program for coastal sites used for rock fishing.

To help address the difficulties and delays in communication with emergency services in locating and responding to rock fishing emergencies, the Australian Communications and Media Authority, telecommunication carriers and carriage service providers are currently progressing work to enable mobile phone carriers to automatically provide Emergency Service Organisations (ESOs) with the location information for mobiles, along with the call.

Mobile line identification (MoLI) is the ability to locate callers geographically via their mobile phone. Delivery of caller line identification and MoLI at the time an ESTA operator answers the call will enhance the ability to respond to emergencies.

DOJ will continue to work with LSV to promote water safety messages through the Play it Safe by the Water campaign and will address relevant outcomes from the Safety Management Plan for Rock Fishing.

Yours sincerely



**Ian Nicklen**  
**Acting Director**