

ESV Ref: PEGAE-21334

20 December 2018

Coroner Paresa Antoniadis Spanos
Coroner's Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006



Dear Coroner Spanos

INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF ANTHONY CARNEVALE

Thank you for sending me a copy of your finding into the death of Mr Anthony Carnevale. I acknowledge your work on this very important public health and safety issue and also offer my condolences to the friends and family of Mr Carnevale.

You have addressed the following recommendations to me:

Recommendation One

That Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) consider implementation of a public awareness campaign about the need to ensure that LPG gas cylinders valves are closed whenever they are not in use, particularly when they are being transported, and that, wherever possible, they are transported in an open or vented vehicle compartment.

I support this recommendation.

ESV's new barbecue safety awareness campaign, *Know the drill before you grill*, was launched on Sunday, 4 November 2018. The primary objective of this campaign is raising awareness on the importance of checking barbecue cylinder connections using soapy water solution to prevent gas leaks and fires. This campaign's supporting messaging on the ESV website and social media has been expanded to include additional information on the safe transportation of LPG cylinders. This includes warnings that gas cylinder valves must closed when not in use, particularly when cylinders are being transported, as well as additional guidance ensuring cylinders are appropriately located and restrained in an upright position to prevent a cylinder from tipping while moving. The campaign will remain active throughout the summer of 2018-19.

Recommendation Two

That, in the alternative to comment 5 above, the Victorian government consider legislating so as to require that all LPG cylinders intended for domestic use are fitted, as a minimum, with a safety valve that will not allow the flow of gas unless the cylinder is coupled to an appliance, and, optimally, that they are also fitted with a thermal fuse or other mechanism that will prevent the flow of gas in the face of extreme heat or fire.

I support this recommendation in-principle.

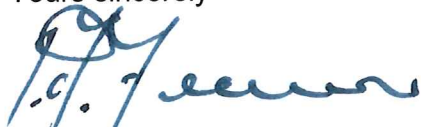
ESV acknowledges the preferred outcome expressed in comment 5 is the introduction of a new safety valve for LPG cylinders through changes to a range of relevant Australian Standards. LPG cylinder valves are currently controlled through legislation that mandates compliance with national standards and changes to relevant standards will result in the safety valve being introduced nationally.

ESV, in consultation with LPG industry stakeholders, are working together on a project to amend standards to require a safety valve (known as the QCC) be used for small leisure cylinders that currently use the Type 21 connection. The QCC valve prevents gas flow unless a positive connection to the cylinder valve is achieved. The project has been endorsed by Standards Australia and work to amend the necessary standards will commence in early 2019.

In the event that the standards approach does not deliver an acceptable and timely safety outcome, ESV will support the Victorian Government in a review of the current legislation to mandate the introduction of the safety valve in Victoria.

ESV is committed to working closely with agencies across the Victorian Government, with technical regulators in other jurisdictions and with industry members in taking comprehensive action on the risks to public safety posed by the current cylinder valve connection. If you require further information, please contact Steve Cronin, General Manager, Gas and Pipeline Safety and Technical Regulation on 9271 5448 or at steve.cronin@energysafe.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Fearon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Fearon
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY SAFETY