



Secretary

Department of Health and Human Services



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DHHS ref: e4994501

Court ref: COR 2016 005171

Dr Sanchia Nigli
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Dr Nigli

**RE: Coroner's findings into the death of Mr Leli Pulis (without inquest),
Court Reference: COR 2016 5171.**

Thank you for your letter of 22 October 2018 enclosing the findings described above.

The Department of Health and Human Services (the department) acknowledges the tragic death of Mr Leli Pulis who died as a result of a fall from a height at home.

I refer to the Coroner's recommendation:

"[t]hat the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services consider extending the national 'Ladder Safety Matters' public education initiative to include falls from heights, including roofs, in the DIY context."

The Coroner's recommendation is under consideration by the department.

The department is aware that the number of major trauma cases due to a high fall (from a height of more than a metre) occurring in the home has increased; from 178 in 2012-13 to 250 in 2016-17 (Source: Victorian State Trauma System and Registry Annual Report 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017).

Cases of ladder falls-related deaths prompted the department to develop the national public health campaign *Ladder Safety Matters*, which was launched in September 2016, in partnership with the Queensland Department of Fair Trading, Consumer Affairs Victoria and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). In 2017 and 2018, the department re-ran the campaign in Victoria.

The 2018 Victorian campaign included the dissemination of hardcopy safety pamphlets to older people in the community and electronic dissemination of ladder safety information and case-studies via a dedicated social media schedule of the Victorian Government's *Better Health Channel* website.

The department plans to review the *Ladder Safety Matters* campaign in early-mid 2019 and will then determine if it would be appropriate to expand the scope of the campaign to include falls from heights, including roofs, in the do-it-yourself (DIY) context.

In the interim, the department will:

- a) modify the planned communication and social media schedule for the 2018 *Ladder Safety Matters* campaign in Victoria to include ladder safety messages in the context of Victorians undertaking DIY home maintenance over the summer and Christmas peak period; and
- b) develop appropriate information for the community on working at height (including on roofs) in the domestic setting to be hosted by the *Better Health Channel* website from 2019.

In addition to the above, the Victorian Government advocates for falls prevention among older people through health promotion activities, including the funding of the *Victorian Active Ageing Partnership* and the *Active and Healthy Ageing Advisors* which promote health and wellbeing among older people. Community awareness messages about the dangers of ladder falls have already been promoted via *Seniors Online* and Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, as well as by numerous non-government organisations such as Victorian Men's Sheds and the Council of the Ageing (COTA) Victoria.

If you require further information please contact David Malone, Assistant Director, Population Health Unit, Prevention and Population Health Branch, on telephone 9096 5209 or email david.malone@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely


Kym Peake
Secretary

21/12/2018