

15 October 2010



Reference: H09/01060

Coroner Kay Robertson
Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 1, 436 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Coroner Robertson

Kalon Tippett (deceased) – Court reference 1137/2009

Thank you for providing your findings in relation to the death of Kalon Tippett, which were received by WorkSafe Victoria on 10 September 2010.

WorkSafe has considered the finding and in particular your recommendation that *'WorkCover...should continue with safety campaigns to increase farmer awareness of safety, and need to implement strategies to avoid tragic and preventable deaths.'*

WorkSafe has developed a number of publications, activities and safety campaigns that are designed to increase farmer awareness of occupational health and safety requirements, and continues with its ongoing endeavours to implement strategies intended to reduce injuries and fatalities on farms.

Examples of work undertaken by WorkSafe in this area include:

- Attending agricultural field days as an exhibitor and providing attendees with WorkSafe guidance material relevant to health and safety issues on farms. Examples of guidance material provided include publications such as the *15 Minute Farm Safety Checklist*, *Safe Operation of Tractors and Attachments*, *Prevention of Falls in the Agriculture Sector*, *Quad Bikes on Farms*, *Working Alone* and *Dairy Safety – A Practical Guide* (also available online at www.worksafe.vic.gov.au);
- Co-funding the Farmsafe Alliance with the Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Human Services. The Farmsafe Alliance visits farming workplaces and provides guidance as to occupational health and safety compliance;
- Funding the Victorian Farm Safety Centre (VFSC) at the University of Ballarat, which has the objective of working with WorkSafe to consult with the industry and produce guidance material and training courses designed to reduce injuries and fatalities on farms. An example of guidance co-produced by WorkSafe and the VFSC is *Quad Bikes on Farms – A Handbook for Workplaces* (August 2009). VFSC also provides training courses such as 'Managing Farm Safety', 'Tractor Training' and 'Quad Bike and Quad Utility Training';

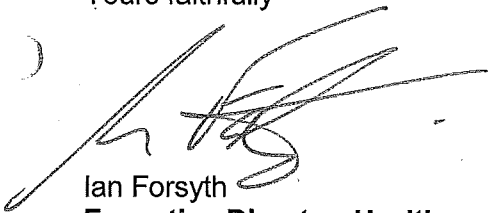
- Sponsoring the Victorian Farm Federation and Country Women's Association annual conferences with the objective of providing preventative and guidance material to a larger audience than might otherwise be attracted;
- Distributing media releases regarding farming fatalities to wide network of rural and regional newspapers;
- Providing naming rights sponsorship to the Victorian Country Football League and the Victorian Country Netball League, including the 'Game of the Month' initiative. The Game of the Month program is a locally publicised initiative whereby one regional game of football and netball per month is selected to host an event including speakers from WorkSafe and media and sporting identities. WorkHealth checks and guidance as to health and safety obligations are also offered at the Game of the Month, and its purpose is to incorporate WorkSafe as a visible presence in rural and regional Victoria and raise awareness of occupational health and safety.

The WorkSafe publication *Safe Use of Tractors with Attachments* (copy enclosed) is of particular relevance to the coronial findings in relation to the death of Kalon Tippett. This handbook contains information relevant to the safe use of tractors and tractor attachments, tractor maintenance and guidance relevant to the supervision of children in the farming environment. It is distributed by WorkSafe at regional field days and also available online at www.worksafe.vic.gov.au

In addition to the initiatives outlined above, WorkSafe inspectors will also visit six hundred agriculture based workplaces in 2010-11 to assess compliance with occupational health and safety legislation.

As detailed above, consistent with your recommendation WorkSafe will continue to raise awareness of the safety issues relevant to the agricultural sector.

Yours faithfully



Ian Forsyth
Executive Director, Health and Safety
Deputy Chief Executive