



# Department of Health

Secretary

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22 JUN 2011

Coroner John Olle  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000



Dear Coroner Olle

Thank you for providing your findings into the tragic death of Simon Gardner.

The Department of Health has reviewed your report and considered all three of your recommendations, in particular the implementation of a Victorian Injury Prevention Strategy and the inclusion of off road motorcycling safety as a key priority under the strategy.

A response, in accordance with your guidelines, follows:

**Recommendation 1** "That the Department of Health implement a Victorian Injury Prevention Strategy and place off-road motorcycling safety as a key priority under the Strategy"

**Action: An alternative to the coroner's recommendation will be implemented**

The Department of Health is committed to developing a state-wide Injury Prevention Plan over the next 12 months, in collaboration with other government departments, statutory bodies and community agencies. The Plan will establish shared priorities for prevention investment across government.

**Recommendation 2** "That as part of the Victorian Injury Prevention Strategy, the Department of Health facilitate a targeted awareness campaign to address the safety of children riding motorcycles informally with friends and family"

**Action: The coroner's recommendation is under consideration**

The department will consider this recommendation in the development of the Victorian Injury Prevention Plan.

**Recommendation 3** "That VicRoads establish a sub-committee of the Victorian Motorcycling Advisory Council whose prime responsibility should be examining off-road motorcycling in order to develop evidence-based strategies to reduce the number of injuries. The committee members should extend beyond road safety groups to include appropriate bodies such as the Department of Sustainability and Environment, the Department of Health and off-road riding associations".

**Action: The coroner's recommendation is under consideration**

The department will willingly participate in and contribute to a sub-committee of the Victorian Motorcycling Advisory Council.

Should you require further information, please contact Ms Jen Thompson, Senior Policy Officer, Health and Wellbeing Strategy on 9096 8274.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fran Thorn', with a stylized, cursive script.

**FRAN THORN**  
Secretary