

1 Malop Street Geelong VIC 3220  
PO Box 279, Geelong 3220  
**Telephone** 03 4243 7000  
**Fax** 03 4243 9321  
**worksafe.vic.gov.au**



27 April 2020

Colleen Bebbington  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
Southbank VIC 3006

**Coroners Court Ref: 2019 000031**

*By email: [cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)*

Dear Ms Bebbington

**Finding without inquest into the death of [REDACTED]**

I refer to the findings and recommendations made by Coroner Hodgson in relation to the death of [REDACTED], sent to WorkSafe Victoria (WorkSafe) on 11 February 2020.

I note that Her Honour recommended the following and advise that this recommendation will be implemented:

*WorkSafe Victoria, in consultation with the Victorian Farmers Federation, consider engaging with farming families and/or conducting a public awareness campaign aimed at farming families highlighting the risks of having children on the farm worksite while undertaking work and incorporating how to keep children safe on farms.*

WorkSafe has recently finalised its 'Agriculture Strategy 2020-23' and is awaiting ministerial approval for this strategy before sharing it publicly. This strategy was developed with input from WorkSafe's Agriculture Safety Reference Group, of which the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is a member. This strategy recognises that farms are homes as well as workplaces and it is intended that part of this strategy will focus on the safety of children on farms in relation to specific hazards. The VFF along with other members of WorkSafe's Agriculture Safety Reference Group will assist WorkSafe in planning the key program activities to deliver this strategy.

Additionally, WorkSafe has committed to assisting Agriculture Victoria with the 'Safer Farms' component of the State Government's 'Smarter Safer Farms Initiative'. Although still under development, this initiative is likely to have specific campaigns and programs which focus on the need for farms to be safe places to live, not just to work, as well as the need to ensure the safety of all persons who may be present on the farm, including family members. WorkSafe, along with the VFF, and other members of the Farm Safety Council, are working with Agriculture Victoria on the development of this initiative and will be partners in its delivery.

Additionally, at present WorkSafe provides guidance for farmers on how to identify and manage the risks to children on farms, through publications available on the WorkSafe website, attending farm field days, assisting with farmer peer-to-peer teaching workshops, and WorkSafe inspector visits. The VFF, as a member of WorkSafe's Agriculture Safety Reference Group, is regularly consulted on these activities.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Coronial Lawyer, Georgia Daniel, on 4243 7919 or [coronerscourt@worksafe.vic.gov.au](mailto:coronerscourt@worksafe.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colin Radford".

Colin Radford  
**Chief Executive**  
**WorkSafe Victoria**