



Australian Government

Department of Health

Deputy Secretary

Ms Alice Wickett
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Wickett

Re: Response request regarding the death of Angel Louise Hensgen (DOB 02/12/2001), Court Ref: COR 2015 5859

Thank you for providing Coroner Paresa Antoniadis Spanos' finding without inquest into the death of Angel Hensgen and requesting a response from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). We were very sorry to learn of the tragic death of Ms Hensgen.

As the Coroner herself noted, it is unlikely that a change to the availability of modified release (MR) paracetamol, including a smaller pack size, would have prevented Angel's death, as the amount Angel took was less than one packet and in combination with other immediate-release paracetamol products.

The TGA is aware of the issue of MR paracetamol in overdose and has already undertaken risk minimisation with its up-scheduling to Schedule 3 Pharmacist Only Medicine (behind the counter) which took effect on 1 June 2020. The TGA will monitor the effect of this regulatory change and continue to remain alert for safety issues with MR paracetamol.

If you have any further questions please contact Dr Jessica Tidemann at jessica.tidemann@health.gov.au or (02) 6289 9460.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Skerritt'.

Adj. Professor John Skerritt
Health Products Regulation Group

21 September 2020