



Monday, 29 March 2021

Coroner Jamieson
Coroners Court of Victoria
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Dear Coroner Jamieson,

Investigation into the death of Swee Chuan Ho, Court Reference 2019 000762

Please find below Life Saving Victoria's response to the recommendations directed to our organisation outlined in the Finding without inquest into the death of Swee Chuan Ho. We extend our deepest sympathies to Mr Ho's family.

Life Saving Victoria's mission is to prevent aquatic related death and injury in all Victorian communities, and the vision that all Victorians will learn water safety, swimming and resuscitation, and be provided with safe aquatic environments and venues.

Recommendation 1a.

Life Saving Victoria updates its public awareness messaging to include abalone fishing and promote this messaging through targeted education social media channels, and other relevant websites.

Response:

The Coroner's recommendation has been implemented.

Fishing safety is one of the key safety elements included in our current education programs to Victorians including those individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. We have updated our public awareness messaging to include abalone fishing safety, including:

- The addition of abalone safety messaging to other fishing messaging, as part of general water safety information provided by LSV's CALD Department. This will be conveyed in classroom/community education sessions for members of Victoria's CALD community. Over 22,000 CALD community members receive this information annually.
- Development of a CALD Virtual Reality Google Expedition with two of the scenes focusing on safe fishing (one on abalone fishing). The Victorian Fisheries Authority has been consulted on this project.
- Abalone fishing safety messaging has also been included in the Victorian Government's Play it Safe by the Water public safety campaign. This includes messaging via social media channels and across various partner websites.

As a non-profit organisation Life Saving Victoria relies on funding for our programs. Therefore, we have applied for grants through the Victorian Fisheries Authority's Recreational Fishing Large Grants Program, to expand the reach of fishing safety messages to include both abalone and rock fishing safety, which have unfortunately been unsuccessful in receiving funding. We will continue to seek and apply for funding through multiple sources to promote abalone and other fishing safety messaging.

Recommendation 1b.

Life Saving Victoria work with recreational fishing organisations and agencies that promote recreational fishing to include safe practices for abalone fishing.

Response:

The Coroner's recommendation is currently being implemented.

Life Saving Victoria continues to work with recreational fishing organisations and agencies such as the Victorian Fisheries Authority, and VR Fish to include safe practices for abalone fishing. Most recently we have worked with the Victorian Fisheries Authority to provide location information to ensure targeted abalone and rock fishing safety messaging is provided to fishers.

Recommendation 2.

With the aim of promoting public health and safety and preventing like deaths, I recommend that Mornington Peninsula Shire Council work with Life Saving Victoria, the Victorian Fisheries Authority and any other relevant bodies to provide messaging about the risk of drowning whilst abalone fishing, and to promote safe practices for abalone fishing, in the Mornington Peninsula Local Government Area.

Response:

The Coroner's recommendation is currently being implemented.

Life Saving Victoria most recently worked on fishing safety events with the Victorian Fisheries Authority in the Mornington Peninsula and in Williamstown to provide messaging about the risk of drowning whilst abalone fishing. Further events are planned for later in the year.

Life Saving Victoria is committed to the prevention of aquatic related death and injury and will continue to work collaboratively with the coroner, the Victorian Government and other related recreational fishing organisations to continue to educate and increase education among Victorians and the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse community regarding the dangers of abalone fishing to reduce risk and prevent deaths of a similar nature occurring.

If you or any of your team have any questions in relation to the above, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Bernadette Matthews, General Manager – Health Promotion and Communications by phone 03 9676 6976 or email bernadette.matthews@lsv.com.au.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Nigel Taylor, ESM
Chief Executive Officer
Life Saving Victoria