

6 October 2021

Mr Will Doolant
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006
Via email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Will

Re: Coroner's Report COR 2020 003638 - Investigation into the death of Kyle Shepherd

I write regarding Deputy State Coroner English's finding without inquest into the death of Kyle Shepherd, and related correspondence to the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) dated 30 June 2021. Please note, this correspondence was received by the TAC on 29 September 2021.

I was saddened to hear of the death of Mr Shepherd, and I extend my condolences to his family and friends. Every life lost on our roads is a tragedy and our hearts go out to those impacted by Mr Shepherd's death.

Deputy State Coroner English made two recommendations in her report. These were:

- 1) With the aim of reducing pedestrian fatalities through education focusing on the safe use of shared roads in rural areas, I recommend that the Department of Transport and Transport Accident Commission work with other relevant state government departments and agencies to specifically develop education campaigns directed at pedestrians in rural areas;
- 2) With the same aim, I recommend that the City of Greater Bendigo consider developing and implementing a local education campaign directed at pedestrians in its catchment area.

Our response is in relation to Recommendation 1, as it relates to the TAC. I further understand that Department of Transport (DOT) is also responding to the letter received by the department with regards to this matter.

About the TAC

The TAC was established by the *Transport Accident Act 1986* (the Act) to provide compensation to Victorians injured as a result of a transport accident, assist people to rehabilitate following an accident, and reduce the incidence of accidents on Victorian roads. Every year, the TAC provides over \$1.5 billion worth of services and compensation to Victorians who have been injured as a result of a transport accident; and invests in infrastructure and public education to engage with Victorians about road safety and reduce road trauma. The TAC works with DOT and other Victorian government agencies as part of the Victorian Road Safety Partnership in its road safety efforts.

Road Safety Engagement

The TAC engages with Victorians through a variety of public education campaigns, partnerships and initiatives. The TAC develops a number of campaigns each year, and carries out research in developing and reviewing each campaign to ensure their effectiveness. Over the past year, campaigns have included issues around seatbelts, distracted driving, cycling safety, and messaging to support Victoria Police's road safety enforcement efforts. The TAC's strategic partnerships and initiatives, like community and local government grants programs, also allow the TAC to directly engage with Victorians about a variety of road safety issues that matter to them in their communities.

Regional Road Deaths

Regional road deaths continue to be a major road safety issue, accounting for over 60 per cent of Victorian fatalities in 2020. New research shows us that the vast majority of people killed on regional roads are also local to the area, with around 80 per cent of people killed on roads in regional Victoria in 2020 dying within 30km of their homes. As part of the Victorian Government's Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030, the TAC is determined in its efforts to continue to reduce the level of road trauma in regional Victoria, and continues to engage regional Victorians on this issue.



Response to Recommendation 1

The Coroner's recommendation will be implemented within the 2021-22 financial year. The safety of pedestrians is identified as a priority in Victoria's Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030. In line with this strategy and the Coroner's recommendation the TAC is collaborating with DOT on the development of public education materials on pedestrian safety with a specific focus on rural pedestrian safety. We will work with other state and local government agencies to ensure these materials are both suitable and also reach the audience effectively. We will continue to promote existing education materials whilst we develop the new, more targeted material.

These public education materials are currently being developed and will be finalised within the 2021-22 financial year. Implementation may be delayed due to the current COVID-19 restrictions and other road safety engagement considerations. The TAC will provide an update to the Coroner's Court closer to the completion date of the campaign.

I trust the above information addresses Deputy State Coroner English's recommendation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions related to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Calafiore', is positioned above the typed name.

Joe Calafiore
Chief Executive Officer
Transport Accident Commission