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12 October 2022

Our Ref:
Your Ref: COR 2021 001241

**Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006**

Attention: Anna Pejnovic

Dear Ms Pejnovic

**INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF MICHAEL JOHN HANRATTY
FINDING WITHOUT INQUEST – SAFE TRANSPORT VICTORIA RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
CASE NUMBER: COR 2021 001241**

On behalf of Safe Transport Victoria (ST Vic) I write in response to the Coroner's finding without inquest dated 12 July 2022 following the investigation into the death of Michael John Hanratty on 8 March 2021, and the recommendation below.

1. In the interests of public health and safety and with the aim of preventing like deaths, I recommend that the Maritime Safety Division of Transport Safety Victoria highlight and disseminate the circumstances in which Mr Hanratty drowned in its upcoming educational materials and safety promotional campaign.

Response

Recommendation 1

ST Vic supports recommendation 1.

ST Vic is now using the circumstances of the death of Mr Hanratty in public facing education activities to highlight the importance of Lifejacket wear and maintenance, as well as the use of small vessels in near shore coastal environments such as surf zones or sandbars.

ST Vic produces monthly newsletters directly emailed to the subscribed members of the public in addition to being made available on the ST Vic website. Lessons learnt are the lead articles in these monthly newsletters, and the circumstances of fatal incidents are used as priority topics as they occur. The circumstances in which Mr Hanratty drowned will be included in a future edition of our recreational boating safety newsletter *ShipShape*, due to be published before the end of 2022.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues in more detail with you if this would be of assistance.

If you require any further information, please contact Jane Wright, Policy Adviser, at jane.wright@transportsafety.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



LAURA MCDONOUGH
General Counsel and Director of Legal, Governance and Policy