



The Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services

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BAC-CO-30542

Nicole D'Rozario
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Support Services
cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au.

Dear Ms D'Rozario

Thank you for your letter dated 17 August 2022 in which you provided findings of an investigation into the death of John Disley. I was saddened to learn about Mr Disley's death and offer my sincere condolences to his family and friends.

The Department of Health (the Department) offers the following responses to your recommendations.

Recommendation 1.

That the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and the Victorian Department of Health continue their Ladder Safety Matters campaign, including the dissemination of updated messages via relevant media, including social media channels.

Department's response to recommendation 1.

The Coroner's recommendation will continue to be implemented by the Department.

Since 2016, the Department has promoted the *Ladder Safety Matters* campaign, noting the *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plans 2015-2019 and 2019-2023* both included injury prevention as a priority.

The Department has been and will continue to promote the campaign via websites and associated social media, including:

- Better Health Channel - <http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/ladder-safety>
- Seniors Online Victoria - <https://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/news/stay-top-ladder>
- Health Translations Victoria - <https://www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au/resources/ladder-safety-matters-micks-story>.

Key stakeholders, including the Victorian Men's Shed Association, Consumer Affairs Victoria, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria and Council of the Ageing Victoria also contribute to raising community awareness, particularly among people over the age of 60 years living independently in their own homes.

Recommendation 2.

The ACCC and the Victorian Department of Health review the impact and effectiveness of the Ladder Safety Matters campaign.

Department's response to recommendation 2.

The Department is considering the Coroner's recommendation.

The 2017 *Ladder Safety Matters* national campaign evaluation found the campaign was relevant, memorable and motivating for the target demographic to increase safe ladder use in the community.

The Department has conducted regular internal process and outcome evaluations of the Victorian campaign implemented between 2016 to 2021. These evaluation findings will inform the ongoing campaign.

The campaign is ongoing and the safety messaging is updated every 1-2 years to align with the latest evidence, data and stakeholder interest.

Consideration will also be given to conducting a more comprehensive evaluation of the campaign's effectiveness and impact on community ladder use, behaviour change as well as ladder-falls injury and trauma.

Thank you again for providing the findings. The Department will continue to work towards improving the health and wellbeing of all Victorians and minimising the risk of avoidable injuries and deaths.

Yours sincerely



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30/10/2022