



## Department of Government Services

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Sofia Hajdari  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006  
By email: [cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au).

**COR 2022 000829**

Dear Ms Hajdari

### **FINDING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS – SIMON SCARFF (COR 2022 000829)**

Thank you for your letter of 31 October 2023 addressed to the Hon Gabrielle Williams MP, Minister for Consumer Affairs (the Minister), enclosing Coroner Paul Lawrie's findings without inquest into the death of Simon Scarff. The Minister has referred your letter to the Department of Government Services for a response.

We acknowledge the tragic circumstances of Mr Scarff's death and extend our sincere condolences to his family and loved ones.

We note Coroner Lawrie's recommendation in paragraph 76 of the findings, that:

*The Minister for Government Services/Minister for Consumer Affairs consider amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 (or other such amendments as may be necessary) so that the safety related activities defined at section 27(2) of the Act [the prescribed terms of which appear in Schedule 3 of the Residential Tenancies Regulations 2021 in respect of electrical, gas and smoke alarm activities], may apply to all existing rental agreements, including rental agreements entered before 29 March 2021.*

We further note Coroner Lawrie's observation, at paragraph 61 of the findings, that all renters are deserving of the safety related requirements afforded by section 27C(2) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*.

**Coroner Lawrie's recommendation is under government's consideration**

The Department of Government Services is presently reviewing Coroner Lawrie's recommendations and will develop advice for consideration by the Minister for Consumer Affairs on an appropriate response by government.

I would be pleased to keep the Coroners Court informed of our progress on this matter.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



**Jaklin Trajkovski**

A/Executive Director, Regulation Policy and Disputes Services  
Department of Government Services  
15/12/ 2023