



## The Hon Nick Staikos MP

Minister for Consumer Affairs  
Minister for Local Government

Level 1, 2 Treasury Place  
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002

CMIN-241200861

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

Dear Coroner

I am writing to you to advise of recent reforms introduced by the Victorian Government in response to the Coroner's findings into the matters of Mr Simon Scarff and [REDACTED], in rental properties.

The Residential Tenancies and Residential Tenancies (Rooming House Standards) Amendment (Minimum Energy Efficiency and Safety Standards) Regulations 2024 (Regulations) were made in December 2024 to require curtain and blind cords to be anchored and affixed to walls in rental properties. These requirements will close an existing regulatory gap following the Coroner's findings and recommendations in 2022 into the death of [REDACTED], a three-year-old boy who tragically passed away due to entanglement in a blind cord at a rental property. The new blind cord safety requirements come into force on 1 December 2025, with no exemptions. A copy of the Regulations is available at: [Residential Tenancies and Residential Tenancies \(Rooming House Standards\) Amendment \(Minimum Energy Efficiency and Safety Standards\) Regulations 2024 | legislation.vic.gov.au](https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/Residential-Tenancies-and-Residential-Tenancies-(Rooming-House-Standards)-Amendment-(Minimum-Energy-Efficiency-and-Safety-Standards)-Regulations-2024).

On 18 March 2025, the Consumer and Planning Legislation Amendment (Housing Statement Reform) Act 2024 became law. Upon commencement of the Act on 25 November 2025, smoke alarm safety checks will be required every 12 months for all rental agreements to provide equal protection to all renters regardless of when they commence occupation of their rented premises.

The Government has also considered the findings into the fire related death of Simon Scarff. *The Consumer and Planning Legislation Amendment (Housing Statement Reform) Act 2025* (the Act) made passage on 18 March 2025 and includes reforms requiring mandatory smoke alarm safety checks for all rental properties to take place regardless of the commencement date of the rental agreement. A copy of the Act is available at: <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/made/acts/consumer-and-planning-legislation-amendment-housing-statement-reform-act-2025>.

If you have further questions about the reforms, please contact Jaklin Trajkovski, Executive Director, Regulation Policy and Dispute Services, Department of Government Services at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



**The Hon Nick Staikos MP**  
Minister for Consumer Affairs  
Minister for Local Government

4.8.2025  
...../...../.....