



VICTORIA POLICE

Mike Bush CNZM
Chief Commissioner of Police

Our ref: LEX 38349
Your ref: COR 2022 000022

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Kate Sanderson
Coroner's Registrar
Coroner's Court of Victoria
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By email only: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Sanderson,

Subject: Investigation into the death of [REDACTED]
Court reference: COR 2022 000022
Date of finding: 3 June 2025

I refer to the above matter and State Coroner Judge Cain's findings dated 3 June 2025 (**Findings**).

Recommendation

At page 21 of the Findings, the State Coroner made the following recommendations in the alternative:

- (i) *That Victoria Police consider the possibility of modifying their body worn camera (BWC) units in collaboration with the relevant manufacturer(s) to emit an audible alert tone that reminds officers that their unit is muted.*
- (ii) *Or, in the alternative, that Victoria Police amend section 3.7 of the Victoria Police Manual – Body worn cameras to state that members must not mute body worn cameras during phone calls or other forms of contact with other police members, including supervisors, while responding to an incident that has required BWC activation.*

Recommendation (i) has been implemented.

Action taken by Victoria Police

When the BWC is muted (no longer recording audio) there are visual prompts on the top LCD screen: a muted symbol (see below) and the top LED flashes blue (instead of the normal red). The BWC also emits a tone when mute is activated.



There is also haptic feedback (the BWC vibrates) every two minutes when the camera is recording, even when muted. When this occurs, the top LCD screen displays the message "Mute Active".

When the haptic feedback occurs at the two-minute mark, the BWC emits a tone (which is different to the tone the BWC emits when recording and not muted).

BWC users have the option to manually increase/decrease the audio volumes emitted from the BWC using the audio buttons on the side of the device. This effects all tones emitted by the device, whether muted or not.

Pursuant to the Victoria Police Manual (VPM) members are to use discretion in the application of recording, stopping or muting activity.

Section 3.7 of the VPM - Body Worn Cameras relevant policy is under review and the following amendment is under consideration:

When to mute a recording

Members should only mute a recording when:

- *directed to mute a recording by a supervisor in accordance with this policy*
- *making or receiving a telephone call when not directly communicating with a subject.*
- *A reasonable expectation of privacy exists, unless the exercise of the police power, duty or function outweighs the human/privacy right being limited.*

In the event that the BWC is stopped or muted, a verbal notation with the rationale should be recorded on the device.

Further matters

Victoria Police is committed to continual improvement in all aspects of policing, particularly in relation to the use of technology and transparency.

I trust that the contents of this letter assists the State Coroner.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should further information be required.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Bush CNZM
Chief Commissioner

17/9/25