

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA



25 August 2015

Mr Josh Munro
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

Dear Mr Munro

MAV preliminary response to Coroners investigations Recommendations

Suicide Prevention and Response to Potential Geographic Suicide Clusters

The MAV accepts the recommendations from the Coroner (court reference numbers as attached), and confirms our intention to action the recommendations with the parties nominated. As the same recommendations are applicable to several case findings the Association is therefore responding to them as a block.

Action to date:

1. A preliminary briefing meeting has been held between DHHS, MAV and the City of Casey on 21 August.
2. The Coroner will be invited to the second meeting by DHHS to discuss the recommendations and in particular that related to information exchange with the Coroners Court.
3. Scoping of the prevention and post-vention framework as it relates to the role of local government and also bodies with specific expertise in regard to suicide responses and potential geographic suicide clusters such as the Primary Health Networks will commence at the second meeting.

The MAV will keep the Coroners Court informed of progress and seek your advice in relation to the development of the framework.

The MAV contact officer is Clare Hargreaves, Manager Social Policy ph. 9667 5543 email chargreaves@mav.asn.au who will be coordinating the MAV's action on the recommendations.

Yours sincerely

ROB SPENCE
Chief Executive Officer

cc. Leanne Beagley DHHS

Coroners Court Recommendations to Municipal Association of Victoria.

Geographic area: Casey

Court Ref:

COR 2011 002926

COR 2011 000999

COR 2011 003601

Recommendation 1:

As part of the Victorian Suicide Prevention Framework, I recommend that the Department of Health and Human Services, Primary Health Networks, MAV, Victoria Police and the Chief Psychiatrist conduct a feasibility study on an information exchange process with the Coroners Court of Victoria.

Recommendation 2:

With the aim of assisting local communities to respond to youth suicide, I recommend that the MAV in consultation with the City of Casey develop a suicide prevention and post-vention response framework for local government, which has the ability to take into account various socio-demographic and geographic profiles of individual local government areas.

Geographic area: Geelong

Court Ref:

COR 2009 001426

COR 2009 003966

COR 2009 004922

COR 2009 001767

COR 2009 003500

Recommendation: That the Department of Health together with Victoria Police, the MAV, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Chief Psychiatrist undertake a review of these reports and develop a policy framework that aligns, where appropriate with the National Suicide Prevention Strategy