

7 November 2014

Caitlin English  
Coroner  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street,  
Southbank, VIC, 3006



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Dear Coroner English,

**Investigation into the death of Jerem B Edwards, Court Ref: COR 2012 001868**

Thank you for providing a copy of the finding referenced above and received on 9 October 2014.

Life Saving Victoria's mission is to prevent aquatic related death and injury in all Victorian communities and has the vision that all Victorians will learn water safety, swimming and resuscitation, and be provided with safe aquatic environments and venues.

Life Saving Victoria is a not - for - profit organisation working under the Emergency Management Victoria framework in a Community/Government partnership model.

Please find below Life Saving Victoria's response to the discussion of alcohol related drowning and recommendations:

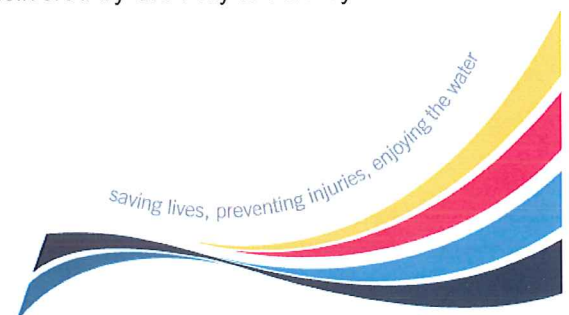
**Recommendation 1. That Life Saving Victoria continues to develop targeted programs and campaigns for the promotion of public safety messages, such as Don't Drink and Drown, to raise awareness in the community of the dangers of alcohol related drowning across Victoria.**

1. Life Saving Victoria agrees with the Coroner's recommendation. Alcohol remains a significant contributing factor in drowning deaths with an average of 22% of drowning incidents attributable to alcohol use in Victoria over 2002-2012. This represents one in four drowning deaths.

Life Saving Victoria is reliant on Government grants and donations to deliver its drowning intervention offerings. Life Saving Victoria will continue to propose projects to prevent alcohol related drowning across Victoria if funding is available.

2. Life Saving Victoria in collaboration with the Play it Safe by the Water committee is working to deliver new creative in an attempt to prevent alcohol related drowning for the 2014-2015 Summer Campaign. The campaign will be aimed at the male 25-39 age group which has been identified as the highest risk and audience.

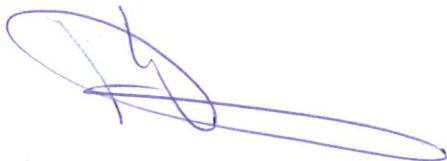
Funding limitations will play a significant role in the dissemination of the material. The alcohol message will be part of a suite of water safety messaging delivered by the Play it Safe by the Water Campaign.



3. Life Saving Victoria proposes there are further steps required to prevent alcohol related drowning. While public safety messaging will help the community understand the risk; education, risk reduction, safeguarding the vulnerable and the ability to respond after an incident, will provide a more holistic response. However, these projects can only go ahead if funding is available.

Life Saving Victoria is committed to the prevention of aquatic related death and injury and as such we look forward to a continuing collaborative approach with the Coroner, all levels of Government, and related organisations to prevent deaths of a similar nature occurring.

Yours sincerely,



Nigel Taylor ESM  
Chief Executive Officer