



Department of
Premier and Cabinet

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Coroner Audrey Jamieson
Coroner's Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006



D17/242971

Dear Coroner Jamieson

I wish to thank you and the Coroner's office for the hard work during your investigation into the death of Mr Paul Daniel Rayudu (your court reference is COR 2014 000761). On 1 December 2016 I wrote to you in response to your recommendation and outlined action the Victorian Government was already taking to promote public swimming pool safety. I indicated that I would write again following the *Victorian Budget 2017/18*.

You recommended that I *'work with the appropriate area of Victorian Government to establish a central oversight and regulation body for public swimming pool operation in Victoria, to ensure safety standards are applied and upheld consistently across the industry'*. I can confirm that the Government will implement an alternative to your recommendation.

WorkSafe Victoria already has regulatory oversight for compliance with duty of care obligations to public pool employees and patrons under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*. Establishing a central regulation body would duplicate WorkSafe's role.

Instead, the Premier has asked the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon James Merlino MP, to take on a leadership role to ensure that public pool operators are supported to deliver safe facilities. The Minister will lead the public swimming pool safety initiative announced in the *Victorian Budget 2017/18*. In assisting the Minister with the new role, Emergency Management Victoria will develop a Victorian Code of Practice, as well as coordinate and promote public swimming pool safety. Emergency Management Victoria will work closely with WorkSafe, Life Saving Victoria and other stakeholders.

If you have any questions, please contact Matt Lowe, Executive Director in the Economic Development and International Branch. You can reach Mr Lowe on (03) 9651 6811 or matt.lowe@dpc.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely


Chris Eccles AO
Secretary

Cc: Greg Wilson, Secretary of the Department of Justice and Regulation

28 AUG 2017