



victoriantransportassociation_{inc.}

17 March 2017

Ms Ashne Lamb
Case Investigator
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK, VIC 3006

Dear Ms Lamb,

Re: Court Reference COR 2014 005064

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the recommendation of coroner Spanos in relation to the investigation into the death of James Sawbridgeworth. Please note that an extension of three months was granted by Coroner Spanos with a response to be received by the Coroners Court by no later than Monday, 20 March 2017

Coroner Spanos made the following recommendation connected with the death:

“That the Transport Industry Safety Group considers the particular challenges to pedestrian safety – especially those older and more vulnerable pedestrians – posed by trucks and heavy vehicles with limited forward visibility in considers developing a strategy to highlight this road safety issue to the public at large, and to trucks and heavy vehicle operators and drivers in particular”.

This recommendation will be implemented.

By way of background and actions completed to date, please note the following:

- The issue of the particular challenges to pedestrian safety – especially those older and more vulnerable pedestrians – posed by trucks and heavy vehicles was raised but not specifically discussed at the Victorian Freight Advisory meeting held on 17 November 2016. The role of the Transport Industry Safety Group (TISG) was discussed.
- In specific reference to the (TISG) it is important to clarify the current status of this particular group. Due to a range of reasons, the TISG did not meet in the second half of 2016.
- In December 2016, the VTA meet with the Coroners Court to discuss the re-vitalisation of the TISG. It was decided that the VTA would then consult with past key TISG stakeholders to determine their future commitment to this particular group. The VTA is committed to maintaining the TISG even in a revised format.

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- A second phase of VicRoads Travel Happy campaign commenced in February 2017. This incorporates key messaging in relation to heavy vehicle blindspot awareness, for both motorists and pedestrians and how to increase the likelihood of being seen by heavy vehicle drivers.

The VTA is in the process of communicating and convening a meeting of the TISG members in late April 2017 and for the recommendation of Coroner Spanos to be a key focus of the meeting in order for the group to develop an effective strategy to highlight this road safety issue to the public at large and to truck and heavy vehicle operators and drivers. Given that there have been two other deaths, whereby the driver of the heavy vehicle has not seen the pedestrian, it is clear that this is indeed a major concern.

The VTA also acknowledges the significant existing research and evidence relating to the over-representation of older people in pedestrian deaths and major injuries. The VTA also understands that this issue will be further impacted by the continuing increase in the ageing population of Victoria.

The VTA recognises that the strategy to be developed by the TISG will need to incorporate and build upon the current programs and initiatives of several government agencies, as well as, focus upon a holistic strategy that takes into account the public at large and in particular truck and heavy vehicle operators. It will include a focus upon raising awareness and targeting the most effective communication channels to connect with the elderly pedestrians and through industry channels to engage and raise the awareness of truck and vehicle operators. As part of this strategy, consideration will also be given to associated technological advances in relation to this road safety issue along with the engagement of government agencies and other industry stakeholders.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Anderson
Chief Executive Officer