



24 August 2018

Ms Mikaela Meggetto
Coroner's Registrar
Coroner's Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Ms Meggetto,

Re Investigation into the death of Jennifer May Teague

I refer to your letter received by the Commission on 23 May 2018 regarding the investigation into the death of Ms Jennifer May Teague. I acknowledge receipt of the Coroner's findings into the death of Ms Teague.

The Transport Accident Commission (TAC) extends its sincere condolences to Ms Teague's family and friends. The TAC understands that VicRoads has responded to the Coroner's recommendations. In general, TAC supports VicRoads' response to each of the two recommendations, and will support VicRoads in delivering on these commitments as appropriate.

Coroner's recommendation 1: With a view to reducing harm to others and preventing like deaths, I recommend that the TAC and VicRoads consider facilitating public awareness campaigns that highlight the dangers of towing an overloaded trailer

This recommendation is supported in principle. Rather than undertake general public awareness campaigns, it is understood that VicRoads is undertaking a number of actions targeted towards those drivers who engage in light vehicle towing to be better informed about road safety risks associated with towing an overloaded trailer.

In this instance, messaging targeted to those at risk can be considered a more effective approach than a public awareness campaign. The size of the audience which could be affected by a general public awareness campaign on towing would be small, and it would be challenging to develop a campaign which would be sufficiently targeted towards the intended audience (i.e., people who tow) and the event (i.e., risky towing episode) to have the necessary reach and impact on behaviour.

Coroner's recommendation 2: With a view to reducing harm to others and preventing like deaths, I recommend that the TAC and VicRoads consider any changes to driver licensing training that may include towing techniques

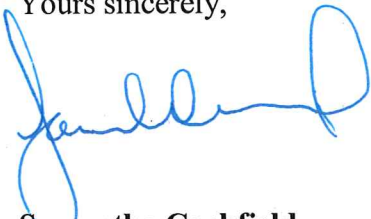
This recommendation is supported in principle. It is understood that, while there is insufficient evidence to justify a change in the driver licensing system to incorporate training in towing

techniques at this time, VicRoads will continue to monitor and review licensing using an evidence-based approach.

The Victorian Graduated Licensing System (GLS) serves as the learning to drive framework in Victoria, as well as in other jurisdictions in Australia. As they progress through the stages of the GLS, drivers develop capabilities gradually as they accrue experience. There is currently no requirement for drivers to undertake mandatory driver training, and the evidence continues to support this practice. Moreover, general training on towing to be delivered to all could have limited impact given the small proportion of drivers who tow and, for those who do tow, the likely infrequency with which they do tow. Retention of the skill being trained is very important in determining training effectiveness. Training which is not applied in the short to near term may prove not useful and, at worst, counterproductive.

Should you require further information, **Eve Mitsopolos- Rubens** , Manager Road Safety Technical & Policy on 0481 912607 would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely,



Samantha Cockfield
Lead Director Road Safety
Transport Accident Commission