



1 November 2018

The Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank 3006

Court Ref: COR 2017 003566

Dear Registrar

Investigation into the death of Sonia Sofianopoulos

Thank you for a copy of the findings and recommendations of Coroner Jacqui Hawkins into the tragic death of Sonia Sofianopoulos.

Standards Australia acknowledges the tragic circumstances in which Ms Sofianopoulos lost her life. Our thoughts are with her and her family.

We note in the findings that Coroner Hawkins made the following recommendation in relation to Standards Australia:

Recommendation Six:

I recommend that Enzo Alfonsetti, as Chairman of the Standards Australia – Committee responsible for Australian Standard:4575 Gas Appliances – Quality of Servicing to consider amending that standard to incorporate Appendix R of AS5601.1 as soon as practicable.

Given that the recommendation relates to the development of an Australian Standard published by Standards Australia, I provide the following responding to the Coroner in relation to above recommendation on behalf of Standards Australia.

Standards Australia

By way of background, Standards Australia is Australia's leading independent, non-governmental standards organisation. We are also Australia's representatives of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

Standards Australia is a not for profit company limited by guarantee. Our members include the Commonwealth government, State and Territory governments and representatives of industry

sectors and community interests such as the Australian Industry Group, Australian Retailers Association, Engineers Australia, and Master Plumbers Australia.

In addition to our members, we work with many hundreds of stakeholder organisations and many thousands of expert volunteers to develop standards. Organisations involved in our process include various industry associations, professional and community based organisations, government departments and regulatory agencies with an interest in the setting of standards in Australia.

Standards Australia has no role in the regulation or enforcement of rules related to the documents that we develop and adopt. Equally, we do not certify or accredit compliance with standards. Rather, our principal function is to form technical committees made up of stakeholders from government, business, industry, community, academia and consumers. Our role is to facilitate a consensus based process through which these committees develop standards where there is a demonstrated need and in the public interest.

Standards development process

Standards Australia does not initiate standards development projects without stakeholder support. Rather, a project to prepare a new standard, revise an existing one or propose participation internationally at the ISO or the IEC, can only commence with the support of external stakeholders, such as government, industry or trade association, professional body, consumer organisation or an individual, through our project proposal process.

Once received a proposal is reviewed to ensure it has met the key criteria including a net benefit case and stakeholder consultation and support.

Following approval of a proposal, it is assigned to a technical committee. Standards Australia reviews the constitution of all technical committees before commencing any new project work. Standards Australia then holds a kick-off meeting with the technical committee to introduce the project. The committee then commences the drafting of the standard.

As part of the standards development process, committee drafts are available to the public for comment for nine weeks. This stage ensures that the broader community has an opportunity to review the content and direction of the document prior to its completion. All comments from the public are considered in detail by the technical committee and, if necessary, further drafting is undertaken. Prior to publication, the committee votes on the final draft. Committee members may vote affirmatively (with or without comment) or negatively. To be considered, negative votes must be accompanied by technical substantiation.

For the standard to be published, consensus must be reached in accordance with our standardisation guides.

Current Status of AS 4575 Gas Appliances - Quality of Servicing

Standards Australia technical committee AG-006 *Gas Installations* is responsible for AS 4575 *Gas Appliances - Quality of Servicing* and AS/NZS 5601.1 *Gas Installations*. Both AS 4575 and AS/NZS 5601.1 are currently being revised by AG-006. Mr Enzo Alfonsetti is the Chair of AG-006.

The following organisations are represented on AG-006:

Access Canberra
Association of Accredited Certification Bodies
Association of Hydraulic Services Consultants Australia
Australian Building Codes Board
Australian Industry Group
Caravan Industry Association of Australia
Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union
Consumers Federation of Australia
Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (QLD)
Energy Networks Australia
Energy Safe Victoria
EnergySafety, WA
For Information
Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association of Australia
Gas Association of New Zealand
Gas Energy Australia
Gas Technical Regulators Committee
Gas Utilisation Institute, New Zealand
LPG Association of New Zealand (Inc)
Master Plumbers and Mechanical Services Association of Australia (Victorian)
Master Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers New Zealand
NT Work Safe
Plumbing Industry Association of SA
Standards New Zealand
The Australian Gas Association
Victorian Building Authority
Worksafe New Zealand

AG-006 met on 10 October 2018 to review AS 4575 in preparation for public comment. Prior to this meeting Standards Australia sought the views of AG-006 on what steps should be taken in light of the Coroner's findings and the above recommendation in particular.

AG-006 has informed Standards Australia that the Committee has already taken steps to incorporate requirements consistent with Appendix R of AS/NZS 5601.1 into the proposed revised draft of AS 4575.

A draft for public comment was published on 24 October 2018. The closing date for public comment is 26 December 2018.

Following the public comment process, AG-006 will meet to resolve the comments and if necessary undertake further drafting. They will also vote on the final draft. At this stage we anticipate the proposed revision of AS 4575 to be published in the first half of 2019.

Standards Australia will keep the Coroner's Court of Victoria informed of developments.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel welcome to contact me on 02 9237 6023 or sherene.daniel@standards.org.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherene Daniel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sherene Daniel
Business Administration Manager