



VICTORIA POLICE

Safer Communities Unit  
Strategy and Policy  
Corporate Strategy and Operational Improvement

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Coroners Court of Victoria  
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

**Subject: Victoria Police response to Coroner's recommendations  
Court Reference Number: COR 2008 004915**

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On 18 January 2013, Victoria Police responded to the two recommendations made by the Coroner arising from the investigation into the death of Justin M. Galligan. A number of changes to the Victoria Police Partysafe Program brochure and associated online material was made and implemented on 21 December 2012.

Since then, the Victoria Police Partysafe Program documentation has been revised and expanded to include an information sheet as well as a detailed booklet for Parents and Party Hosts. The information provided to the community in these documents was developed with the coronial recommendations in mind and it is intended that these documents continue to build upon what was articulated in the previous version.

To address the Coroner's first recommendation, information about the perils of headstrikes is retained in the newly Victoria Police Partysafe documents. In the *Injuries and Medical Emergencies* section of the Partysafe booklet, the following has been included under the heading, 'Head Injuries – A Medical Emergency':

*"The risks associated with head injuries are extremely high. Head injuries can be fatal and any person who has sustained a head injury requires urgent medical attention.*

*Always seek **immediate** medical attention for anybody who has sustained a head injury or head strike. Call for an ambulance immediately on Triple Zero (000)."*

Both documents retain references to both the Victorian Government Better Health Channel website and the Ambulance Victoria website for further information about head injuries and first aid advice. In addition, the Victoria Police Partysafe online registration form remains unchanged and retains prompts for hosts to develop an Emergency Medical Plan.

To address the second recommendation, the updated documents maintain the need for hosts to exercise zero tolerance of any violent behaviour and reinforces the perils of allowing uninvited people to linger in and around the party area. The following text appears in the *Gatecrashing* section of the booklet under the heading ‘Respond: Deny Entry and Respond Quickly to Gatecrashers’:

*“Act quickly if gatecrashers arrive. Tell them to leave and do not allow them to linger in or around the area.*

*Some gatecrashers may be determined to gain entry – refuse and call police on Triple Zero (000) if they do not leave. Remember, you do have the right to refuse entry to your party.”*

This information is reinforced in the *Disputes and Violence* section which reiterates that:

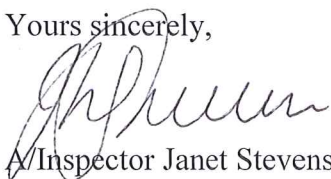
*“Arguments between guests, neighbours and others have the potential to lead to physical violence and injuries. Both the ongoing presence of gatecrashers and the excessive consumption of alcohol increase the risk of arguments and their unpredictable escalation.*

*It is vital that you serve alcohol responsibly and do not allow gatecrashers to linger in or around the party as they may continue to cause trouble.”*

To support this information, emphasis is placed on active adult supervision of the party and verbally assertive responses to any violence including the advice to arrange for violent guests to leave the party. Previously incorporated advice regarding the responsible service of alcohol has also been enhanced and consolidated into the *Alcohol* section of the booklet. The legal responsibilities of hosts in supplying alcohol to a child is now also supported by information about the Duty of Care hosts may offer to all attendees. It is intended that this information should assist to reinforce the importance of active and responsible adult supervision to prevent party related injuries in the future.

The updated Victoria Police Partysafe Program documentation can be found online at [www.police.vic.gov.au/partysafe](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/partysafe).

Yours sincerely,



Inspector Janet Stevenson

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