



Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Office of the Secretary

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Mr Kav Selvakumar
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE 3000

21 SEP 2012

Dear Mr Selvakumar

Thank you for your letter regarding the finding into the death without inquest of Pruseyus Lily Sharp – Court Reference: COR 2009 001665.

I note the Coroners recommendations and advise that:

The book, *My Health and Development*, given to parents at the birth of their child to record information relating to their child's health, growth and development, provides important telephone numbers for parents including two telephone lines: the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Line and Nurse-On-Call.

The MCH Line provides 24 hour advice to parents of children from birth to school age. It is staffed by MCH nurses. Nurse-On-Call provides immediate, expert health advice from a registered nurse, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The MCH service also informs parents of the Raising Children Network website and telephone number. The Raising Children Network provides information regarding child health and development and parenting.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has considered the recommendation made by the coroner and is of the view that the existence of the MCH Line and Nurse-On-Call adequately responds to the need for a 'help-line'. However, the Department recognises the importance of parents understanding symptoms that warrant immediate medical attention.

The Department will develop and distribute an information sheet outlining infant symptoms for which parents should seek immediate medical attention. This information sheet will be distributed to parents at the initial MCH visit, MCH nurses, the MCH Line and Nurse-On-Call.

Yours sincerely

Richard Bolt
Secretary

20 / 9 / 2012

