

Please Quote: VRPC004124  
(File No: PC013922)

Ms Cheryl Vella  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroner's Court of Victoria  
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street  
**MELBOURNE VIC 3000**



Dear Ms Vella

## **DRIVER LICENCE**

I refer to your letter dated 23 March 2012, regarding Recommendation 5 in Coroner White's finding in the Inquest into the Death of Shane Bennett (Court Reference 1132/08), relating to verification of driver licence details for conversion from a New Zealand driver licence to a Victorian one.

I advise that VicRoads has implemented Recommendation 5 by taking the following actions:

1. VicRoads now requires that a letter of verification from the New Zealand Transport Agency be provided in order for a New Zealand driver licence or learner permit holder to be issued with the equivalent Victorian driver licence or learner permit. VicRoads has also amended its registration and licensing business rule, 'Eligibility Criteria Interstate and New Zealand Applicants' accordingly.
2. The application form for a Victorian driver licence or learner permit has been amended to include a new section titled 'Verification of Learner Permit/Driver Licence Card' that identifies documents presented, including a letter from an overseas licensing authority. The form must be notated to record the type of documents that have been presented for issue of a Victorian driver licence or learner permit. This new requirement was outlined in an instruction provided to VicRoads' staff on 31 October 2011.
3. VicRoads will retain the letter of verification required to be provided in support of a New Zealand driver licence or learner permit conversion.

Driver licence or learner permit application forms and verification documents from New Zealand applicants are retained in accordance with 'Retention and Disposal Authority for Records of Vehicle Registration and Driver Licences' issued by the Public Records Office, PROS 09/08. Such documents can either be imaged or held as hard copy, based on the type of document. The new registration and licensing database, expected to be completed in 2014, will provide the functionality for electronic storage of all documents against a transaction or customer record.

VicRoads presented a discussion paper on the verification of New Zealand licences at the national Association of Australian and New Zealand Road Transport and Traffic Authorities (Austroads), Registration and Licensing Task Force meeting of 24 May 2012. The paper requested that members consider verification of the licence status of New Zealand driver licence holders before issuing them with an Australian licence, and that such verification be done through the National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information Service (NEVDIS), which holds driver licence and vehicle information concerning states and territories in Australia. Individual jurisdictions are considering their response to the issue of licence verification with New Zealand. Austroads will consider the potential for future participation by New Zealand in NEVDIS.

Should you require any further information regarding this matter, Mr Mario Cattapan, VicRoads' Acting Director, Registration and Licensing Policy (Tel: 9854 2924), would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Liddle', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**GARY LIDDLE**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

17/6/2012