

Please Quote: VRPC004326
(File No: PC014594)

Ms Lidia Lo Giusto
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 11
222 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Ms Lo Giusto

INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF WILLIAM TOREY – COURT REF - 2625/08

I refer to your letter dated 31 May 2012, advising of the finding without an Inquest into the death of William Torey and the Coroner's recommendation.

VicRoads provides the following response to the Coroner's recommendation. Namely:

That VicRoads and other road safety agencies as part of their process of providing learning programs for young people ensure that information regarding the risks of operating vehicles in locations such as car parks be provided to teenagers intending to apply for their learners permit, or undergoing their learning driving period. And that likewise, the same safety messages be provided to those people undertaking a supervising driver role to any learner driver.

The Coroner's recommendation will be implemented.

The law does not allow unlicensed pre-learner drivers to drive on roads or road related areas such as car parks. VicRoads will update the relevant information contained on its website and in pre-learner materials, such as the *Road to Solo Driving Handbook*, to make it clear that road related areas are not 'off-road' areas where an unlicensed driver may drive.

Once a car learner permit is granted, the *Guide for Learners* and the *Guide for Supervising Drivers* provide information about learning to drive in car parks. This material suggests that quiet locations, away from traffic/road users, such as deserted car parks and empty housing estate roads, could be used in the initial stages of learning to drive. These locations are suggested as they are devoid of other road users and so generally provide a safer environment for learners who do not yet have sufficient vehicle control skills.

The material also suggests the use of car parks at the later stages of learning to drive when learner drivers are more experienced. Learning to drive in a car park is important for an experienced car learner driver to experience as it provides the learner the benefit of supervised driving experience in car parks before graduating to solo driving. Similar advice is also provided for learner motorcycle riders in *Discover Safe Riding*.

VicRoads material also provides advice that drivers need to be alert and anticipate potential hazards, such as pedestrians, in high pedestrian areas including around parked cars.

Relevant stakeholder groups will be made aware of the messages around the use of car parks for unlicensed pre-learner drivers, learner drivers, supervising drivers and motorcycle riders.

Should you require any further information, Mr David Shelton, VicRoads' Executive Director – Road Safety and Network Access (Tel: 9854 2700), would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



GARY LIDDLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

9 / 18 / 2012