



18 January 2013

Victoria Police Centre Concourse Level
Safer Communities Unit
Media and Corporate Communications

637 Flinders Street
Docklands 3005
Victoria, Australia
Telephone 03 9247 5311
www.police.vic.gov.au

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

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

Victoria Police acknowledges receipt of the findings of the investigation into the death of Justin M. Galligan and the two recommendations made by the Coroner for Victoria Police.

After receipt of the Coroner's findings, Victoria Police implemented changes to its Partysafe brochure and website in accordance with the Coroner's two recommendations. The changes to the Victoria Police Partysafe brochure and website were implemented on 21 December 2012. Specific actions taken to address each of the two recommendations are detailed below.

To address the Coroner's first recommendation, Victoria Police updated its Partysafe brochure to inform party planners about the perils of headstrikes. In the 'Looking after your guests' section of the revised Victoria Police Partysafe Brochure, the following text now appears:

"...guests involved in violent behaviour may sustain a headstrike or other head injury. Any head injury is serious and requires urgent medical attention...Call for an ambulance immediately on 000 if any guest sustains a headstrike or other head injury."

The Victoria Police Partysafe Brochure and website now both include a direct link to the Victorian Government Better Health Channel website for head injuries first aid (http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Head_injuries_first_aid) and to the Ambulance Victoria website for medical emergency first aid tips (<http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/Education/First-Aid-Tips/DRABCD.html>).

The newly introduced Victoria Police Partysafe on-line registration form asks party hosts and planners whether an Emergency Medical Plan has been developed. A link to the Ambulance Victoria website for first aid tips is provided at this field. A response in this field is mandatory. If registrants respond in the negative to this question, a message is generated on the registration form that warns: *‘It is recommended you have a Medical Emergency Plan, please refer to the “Response to Medical Emergency” section below.’*

The “Response to Medical Emergency” section instructs party hosts to dial 000 in the case of an emergency and provides a description of the nature of information that will need to be conveyed to the 000 operator.

The downloadable Victoria Police Partysafe registration form has also been amended to prompt party registrants to consider having a Medical Emergency Plan in place.

In response to the Coroner’s second recommendation, Victoria Police has updated its Partysafe Brochure to make clear the need for zero tolerance of any violent behaviour in and around the party, and the perils of allowing uninvited people to linger in and around the party area. Although not expressly recommended by the Coroner, Victoria Police also updated the Partysafe brochure to provide additional information and advice to the public about the responsible service and supply of alcohol, particularly to minors. Specifically, in the ‘Looking after your guests’ section of the Victoria Police Partysafe Brochure, the following text has been included:

“No matter how careful you are, there is a risk that there will be trouble or dangerous situations at your party...You might be faced with uninvited people and potential gate-crashers lingering in and around the party area, verbal arguments between guests and neighbours, people making excessive noise or damaging other people’s property. There is also the chance of verbal arguments between guests or even physical violence, which may lead to an injury...As a host and a responsible member of the community, there are steps you can take to set the standard of acceptable behaviour and ensure that safety is maintained at your party.”

The following steps for party hosts have been added to the Victoria Police Partysafe brochure:

- *Practice the responsible serving and provision of alcohol*
- *If alcohol is being consumed by children under the age of 18 years at your party, you are required by law to obtain written or verbal permission from their parents or guardians*
- *Sufficient parental supervision or the presence of other adults will help keep trouble at a minimum*
- *Make it clear that violent behaviour will not be tolerated. Consider hiring private security for the night.*
- *If you are unable to control any situation, call police early on 000*

The Victoria Police Partysafe website has also been updated to advise party planners when registering their party to consider obtaining consent from the parents or guardians of underage drinkers, and the responsible serving and provision of alcohol.

The Victoria Police Partysafe on-line registration form includes questions that ask about a strategy to control the excessive consumption of alcohol, the alcohol consumption by or service to children under the age of 18 years, and the advertising of the party on social networking sites. Registrants are provided with warning messages that recommend a plan for serving of alcohol responsibly and the removal of any public event posting. Registrants are also provided with a highlighted message that describes offences relating to serving/providing alcohol to a child under the age of 18 years and their responsibilities for obtaining permission from parents or guardians of underage drinkers.

The Victoria Police Partysafe downloadable registration form includes the same questions as the on-line registration form.

The updated Victoria Police Partysafe website, registration forms and brochure can be found at <http://www.police.vic.gov.au/partysafe>.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Langdon', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Anthony (Tony) Langdon
Inspector
Safer Communities Unit
Victoria Police