



Our ref: D19/14614
Your ref: COR 2017 002725
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Coroner Michelle Hodgson
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006
PDF via email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner Hodgson

Finding into Death without Inquest - Timothy Aghan

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 November 2018 to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). I have read through your finding without inquest into the death of Timothy Aghan and note your recommendation to the ACCC, to consider renewing its national DIY vehicle safety campaign and including DIY motor vehicle repairs in its next 'Safe Summer' campaign.

The ACCC regrets the sad circumstances of Mr Aghan's death which may have been averted by safer set up and use of portable ramps during vehicle maintenance.

The ACCC's product safety role is focused on the safe supply and use of consumer products. Requirements for the supply of portable ramps for vehicles are set out in [Consumer Goods \(Portable Ramps for Vehicles\) Safety Standard 2017](#), a mandatory safety standard which was reviewed and strengthened in 2017. This mandatory standard now requires safety warning labels and instructions for safe use to clearly state that death or serious injury could result if the portable ramps are not used properly.

A safety warning must now be permanently attached to each ramp. The warning includes advice that at least one wheel of the vehicle must be chocked on the ground, to prevent movement of the vehicle. Suppliers have a 2 year transition period ending in December 2019, to meet the requirements of the standard.

The ACCC undertakes a number of activities to best ensure the safety of do-it-yourself vehicle maintenance activities, including the use of portable ramps. The ACCC regularly performs market surveillance and testing of products to ensure their compliance with mandatory safety standards, administers voluntary recalls to retrieve unsafe or non-compliant products from users, promotes the voluntary recalls via social media and the Product Safety Australia website, and communicates with consumers about safe ways to undertake vehicle maintenance.

The ACCC included DIY vehicle maintenance in the 2018 'Safe Summer' campaign which ran from 10 to 21 December 2018. The campaign included the publication of a unique web

page as well as a range of supporting social media posts. The webpage has received 474 page views since the launch of the campaign. Specific items on vehicle jacks and vehicle support stands were also posted to social media on 18 and 20 December 2018 as part of the campaign. The ACCC is currently investigating development of a renewed safety campaign on DIY vehicle safety and has contacted partners of persons who have died tragically in similar circumstances to gauge interest in their participation.

On 11 January 2019, the ACCC updated content on the [Product Safety Australia](#) website, to advise that persons assisting with use of portable ramps should ensure they stand in a safe place, clear of the vehicle's line of travel.

The ACCC has also invited WorkSafe Victoria to cooperate with future messaging on social media channels to maximise reach.

While the ACCC hopes that there will be no further loss of life associated with home vehicle maintenance, the ACCC would be very interested to receive additional information that might be forthcoming in any future investigation. Such information would include the age of the support stands, any distinguishing marks such as brand or model numbers, and the presence or absence of affixed warnings.

Thank you for giving the ACCC the opportunity to consider this matter.

Yours sincerely



Neville Matthew
General Manager
Consumer Product Safety Branch