



THE HON MICHAEL SUKKAR MP
Minister for Housing and Assistant Treasurer

Ref: MC19-008537

24 JAN 2020

Ms Mikaela Meggetto
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Ms Meggetto

Thank you for your correspondence of 8 October 2019 concerning Coroner Audrey Jamieson's finding into the death of Mr Trevor J O'Brien and recommendations for a new safety standard for jockey-wheels, court reference COR 2018 001914. In my role as Assistant Treasurer I am responsible for administering the Australian Consumer Law 2010 (ACL) including provisions relating to the creation of new safety standards. In this capacity, I write in reference to the three recommendations noted in the Coroner's report regarding the establishment of a new safety standard for jockey wheels. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The safety of all Australians is of the utmost importance to the Australian Government. The ACL commenced in 2011, providing the same protections and expectations for consumers wherever they are in Australia. Specifically, the ACL created a single national approach to making safety standards for consumer goods and product-related services. The ACL is jointly administered and enforced by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC), along with State and Territory regulators.

The ACCC is an independent Commonwealth statutory authority whose role, amongst other functions, is to protect the interests and safety of consumers. In particular, the ACCC works with suppliers to encourage the supply of safe consumer products, communicates serious product safety risks and provides advice to the Commonwealth Minister on the appropriate use of product safety powers in the ACL, including on the introduction of new safety and information standards.

I understand you have written separately to the ACCC on these recommendations. I have been advised by the ACCC the Coroner's recommendations will be considered in the context of their current work program, and that they will provide a written response to the report in due course.

Therefore, in regards to the recommendations outlined in your report, I will await their advice on this issue.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Michael Sukkar MP