

24 June 2021

Coroner Bracken  
Attention Ms Libby Murphy  
Coroner's Solicitor  
Coroner's Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
Southbank VIC 3006.

Dear Coroner Bracken

**Re: Jordan WHITE – Coroner's number 2019 5125, CCOPMM Number 20193111**

We write to respond to your recommendation in the finding for the death of Jordan White that states, *'The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and Kidsafe Victoria, together develop and implement a strategy to increase public awareness of the potentially fatal risk of parents using faulty or damaged 'baby care equipment' such as portacots with a view to reducing, if not eradicating accidental deaths such as that of Baby Jordan caused by such use'*.

The Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity's (CCOPMM) Child and Adolescent (CA) subcommittee reviewed this case in 2020. At that time, the subcommittee did not have access to your Finding document.

The CA subcommittee has previously reviewed deaths that appeared to be the result of faulty or dangerous equipment such as bassinets, cots or portacots, especially if second-hand. In response to these cases, CCOPMM made recommendations relating to safe sleeping in its *Victoria's Mothers, Babies and Children 2017* report. Along with the recommendations, the report outlined a number of key messages for consumer relating to nursery products and equipment (pages 62-63).

*The specific recommendations listed was – Ensure safe sleeping is enhanced by:*

- *Having a portable sleep space available for families that meets Australian Standards - this could then be provided to vulnerable families.*
- *Mandatory labelling on nursery products, specifically sleeping furniture, surfaces and accessories stating whether the product does or does not meet the Australian standard.*
- *Providing infant safe sleeping guidelines to women and families in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.*

A copy of the report can be found at <https://www.bettersafecare.vic.gov.au/publications/mothers-babies-and-children-2017>

CCOPMM is aware that the Department of Health continues to discuss how to enhance safe sleeping and support vulnerable families in addition Safer Care Victoria has just released a Safe Sleeping Guideline. This guideline can be found at <https://www.bettersafecare.vic.gov.au/clinical-guidance/neonatal/infant-safe-sleeping>.

Please note that the Department of Health and Human Services recently underwent a restructure and are now separated and known as the Department of Health and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. For further information in relation to the progress of safe sleeping recommendations as outlined in this letter should be referred to the Department of Health.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'T Farrell', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Adjunct Professor Tanya Farrell  
Chair, Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity