



Ms Alice Wickett
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

13 May 2021

Dear Ms Wickett,

Investigation into the death of Jordan White – Court Reference COR 2019 005125

Thank you for your letter dated 1 March 2021 in regards to Coroner Bracken's Finding without inquest into the tragic death of Jordan White - we extend our deepest condolences to Baby Jordan's family.

We refer to the Coroner's recommendation:

"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 dangers 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 cause by such use."

Public awareness strategy

The Coroner's recommendation is under consideration. We have approached the Victorian Department of Health (previously Victorian Department of Health and Human Services) to discuss the recommendation and create a strategy to increase public awareness of the risks around the use of faulty or damaged nursery furniture – which are particularly prevalent in the second hand market - to prevent further tragedies. It is our view that the strategy needs to focus on the prevention of all fatal sleeping accidents and include reference to baby care equipment as a component of this.

Folding cot (portacot) safety standards review

Further to education and awareness raising efforts that will be implemented, we also suggest that the Coroner calls for a review of the current folding cot standard that has not been reviewed since they were published in 2010, to ensure that the product meets best practice safety standards.

The current mandatory safety regulation for folding cots is based on certain sections of the voluntary Australian New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2195:1999 Folding Cots – Safety requirements. Safety was increased in the 2010 revision but is not reflected in the mandatory standard, including requirements such as breathable zones and significant revised warnings, including where these warnings need to be located on the product. As a minimum, the mandatory regulation should reflect the latest published version of the standard.

Ongoing activities

Kidsafe Victoria is committed to continue working to prevent child injury deaths and working in partnership with stakeholders to deliver education and awareness campaigns around product safety.



As a small, independent, not-for-profit organisation, ongoing funding to deliver a continued comprehensive, multifaceted campaign is a challenge for Kidsafe Victoria. We support investment into an ongoing campaign which we would be pleased to implement in partnership with other organisations to ensure that parents, grandparents and other carers receive regular information about how to keep their children safe across key child safety issues.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below.

Yours sincerely,

Melanie Courtney

CEO

Kidsafe Victoria

(03) 9036 2306

Melanie@kidsafevic.com.au