



Ms Ella Trickey
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

12 August 2021

Dear Ms Trickey,

Investigation into the death of MRE – Court Reference COR 2018 004919

Thank you for your letter dated 12 May 2021 in regards to Coroner Bracken's Finding without inquest into the tragic death of MRE.

We refer to the Coroner's recommendation:

"WorkSafe Victoria and the Transport Accident Commission, in consultation with the Victorian Farmers' Federation and Kidsafe Victoria, consider engaging farming families and/or conducting a public awareness campaign aimed at farming families highlighting the risks of allowing children to operate farm machinery and/or drive vehicles such as tractors and incorporating how to keep children safe on farms."

Response

The Coroner's recommendation is under consideration. We plan to approach WorkSafe Victoria and the Transport Accident Commission to discuss opportunities to work together to engage farming families or conduct a public awareness campaign as per your recommendation.

Current activities

We acknowledge the unique environments and injury hazards that farms pose to children, given that they typically combine the family home and an industrial workplace. Kidsafe Victoria is committed to working to raise awareness of child farm safety in partnership with stakeholders to deliver education and awareness campaigns around farm safety, in an effort to prevent further tragedies.

We currently deliver education around keeping children safe on farms and preventing childhood injuries on farms through a number of initiatives. One key program is our Farm Safety Creative Competition and Campaign running from 2020-2023, supported by Agriculture Victoria through the Smarter, Safer Farms Initiative. The state-wide program includes the implementation of an annual creative competition for Victorian children aged 3-12 years, with the aim of engaging children in discussions about farm safety hazards and safety measures when visiting or living on a farm.

The program also includes a month-long state-wide education campaign targeted to Victorian parents and carers incorporating the creative entries from the competition. Focus topics of the campaign include vehicle and machinery safety, the importance of active adult supervision of children on farms, and age-appropriate chores or tasks for children on the farm.



We also have a number of resources focused on child farm safety freely available to the public. This includes a [Farm Safety Checklist](#) and [Parent's Guide to Kidsafe Farms](#), both of which highlight common farm injury hazards and practical steps to keep children safe on the farm.

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 strategy, which we would be pleased to implement in partnership with other organisations, to ensure that targeted and effective farm safety messaging reaches parents, grandparents and other carers to raise awareness and prevent further tragedies.

We extend our deepest condolences to MRE's family and community.

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

Yours sincerely,

Melanie Courtney
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