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26 July 2021

**Coroners Court Ref: 2018 4919**

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

*By email: [cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)*

Dear Ms Trickey

I refer to the findings and recommendations made by Coroner Bracken in relation to the death of MRE. I note His Honour recommended that:

*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.*

WorkSafe has undertaken extensive work in relation to child safety on farms over many years. Most recent efforts include WorkSafe partnering with Agriculture Victoria in the Victorian Government's Smarter Safer Farms initiative. WorkSafe is Deputy Chair of the Farm Safety Council established under the initiative, with the Council membership including the Victorian Farmers Federation and KidSafe Victoria, amongst others.

As part of Smarter Safer Farms, KidSafe Victoria has been engaged to develop education and awareness programs through primary schools, including a state-wide competition to raise awareness of the issue with the students and, through them, with their parents. The Smarter Safer Farms Program also includes the \$5 million Farm Safety Rebate, which provides up to \$5000 towards permanent changes to keep everyone safe on the farm. The rebate can be used for child safety related changes, such as separation fencing and vehicle safety devices.

Notwithstanding this work, and our regular engagement with key stakeholder and community groups, there is clearly more that can be done to enhance the impact of the government's key safety messages in Victoria's rural and regional communities. Therefore, in response to the Coroner's recommendation, WorkSafe will engage with the Transport Accident Commission, Victorian Farmers Federation, KidSafe Victoria and other relevant stakeholders to identify what might be done to ensure wide scale investment in messaging around child safety on farms is effective.

For further information, please contact Ms Amelia Macknay, Managing Principal Lawyer via email at [coronerscourt@worksafe.vic.gov.au](mailto:coronerscourt@worksafe.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colin Radford".

**Colin Radford**  
**Chief Executive Office**