

25 October 2021

Alice Wickett
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006
Via email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Alice

Re: Coroner's Report COR 2018 4919 - Investigation into the death of MRE

I write regarding Coroner Bracken's finding into the death of MRE and related correspondence to the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) dated 12 May, 2021. The TAC CEO has asked me to respond to the letter issued to the TAC on his behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding to this correspondence.

I was saddened to hear of the death of MRE, and I extend my condolences to [REDACTED] family. Every life lost on our roads is a tragedy and our hearts go out to those impacted by [REDACTED] death.

Coroner Bracken made a recommendation in his report, 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.

About the TAC

The TAC was established by the *Transport Accident Act 1986* (the Act) to provide compensation to Victorians injured as a result of a transport accident, assist people to rehabilitate following an accident, and reduce the incidence of accidents on Victorian roads. Every year, the TAC provides over \$1.5 billion worth of services and compensation to Victorians who have been injured as a result of a transport accident; and invests in infrastructure and public education to engage with Victorians about road safety and reduce road trauma. The TAC works with Department of Transport and other Victorian government agencies as part of the Victorian Road Safety Partnership in its road safety efforts.

TAC Response

The TAC supports the coroner's recommendation.

The TAC has recently participated in meetings convened by WorkSafe on this matter, together with Kidsafe and the Victorian Farmer's Federation. The TAC will support any initiatives or campaigns developed in relation to children and farm safety. The TAC will also provide any relevant expert advice or assistance in the design of effective behavioural change campaigns and messaging.

The TAC and the Department of Transport are developing a new strategic approach to reduce road trauma among children and young people. As a result, a number of programs and materials will be revised or redeveloped during 2022. This will include programs and materials designed for children and their parents across early childhood education, primary schools and secondary schools. The TAC will undertake to include relevant information about farm vehicle safety in all of the road safety education programs and materials we develop.



I trust the above information addresses Coroner Bracken's recommendations. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions related to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Samantha Cockfield', is written in a cursive style.

Samantha Cockfield
Head of Road Safety
Transport Accident Commission