

1 March 2022

Our ref: FOL/19/23827
Your ref: COR 2018 6156

Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Sir / Madam

**INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF ANG
FINDING WITHOUT INQUEST – TSV RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION
CASE NUMBER – COR 2018 6156**

On behalf of Transport Safety Victoria's (TSV's) Maritime Safety branch, I write in response to the Coroners finding without inquest dated 01 December 2021 following the investigation into the death of ANG in December 2018, and the recommendations below.

1. Maritime Safety Victoria consider advising boat users of the possible consequences of not being in a fully seated position on a vessel, particularly in a bow rider, in any pamphlets or similar that are provided to registered boat users.
2. Maritime Safety Victoria consider reinforcing boat users to practice man overboard procedures and, in particular, the requirement to stop engines, where appropriate to prevent injury, in any pamphlets or similar that are provided to registered boat users.

Response:

TSV has a multi-channel education program delivering boating safety messages to various audiences. These channels include Facebook, printed collateral, Accredited Training Providers, Boating Safety Information Signs, Safety Seminars (online and in person), Boat Shows, Regional Safety Expos amongst others. Both of these recommendations can be incorporated into a variety of education channels.

Recommendation 1

TSV supports recommendation 1 and provides the following information as a statement of action in response to the recommendation.

The January 2019 edition of *Shipshape* included an article on bow riding specifically to raise awareness of the risks associated with bow riders and bow riding on powered vessels. This article was published to immediately highlight the risk of bow riding, pending the finalisation of the coronial inquest process.

TSV prepares a boating safety pamphlet that is included with annual registration renewal notifications. The information to address Recommendation 1 will be included as a component of the messages in the next reprint of the pamphlet.

Bowrider ski boats and bowriders that operate on salt-water present similar risk to those operated on inland waters for towed water sports. TSV will incorporate this messaging into both its broad safety messages and targeted safety messaging that focusses on towed water sport users.

Recommendation 2

TSV supports recommendation 2 and provides the following information as a statement of action in response to the recommendation.

TSV's *Recreational Boating Safety Handbook* refers to best practice in dealing with a person overboard situation. The handbook emphasises the importance of putting the engine in neutral before swinging the propeller away from the person in the water.

TSV also has content on the maritime safety website that highlights the importance of taking engines out of gear when returning to pick up a person overboard. We also have a stand-alone page on *Propeller Strikes* (viewable at https://transportsafety.vic.gov.au/maritime-safety/recreational-boating/safe-operation/boat-handling/propeller-strike#_ga=2.51476841.1119570369.1646085972-1564298500.1643769415) that recommends turning the engine off whenever there are swimmers or towed sport participants in the water near the engine.

TSV will review the web content and handbook to enhance people's awareness of the benefits of practicing person overboard manoeuvres and, in particular, taking engines out of gear or turning them off in such manoeuvres. TSV will also consider including person overboard procedures in the registration renewal pamphlet and seminar series.

If you require any further information, please contact Jane Wright, Policy Adviser, on jane.wright@transportsafety.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SR', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

SHAUN RODENBURG
Director, Maritime Safety