



# Department of Education and Training

Schools and Regional Services

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Coroner McGregor  
Coroner's Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh St  
Southbank 3006

DET Ref:LDM58293

**Sent via email:** [team2@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:team2@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)

Dear Coroner McGregor

## **Investigation into the death of Timothy Fehring – Department's response to Coroner's Finding of 11 July 2022**

We refer to the Coroner's Finding in this matter dated 11 July 2022.

In accordance with section 72(3) of the *Coroners Act 2008*, the Department would like to submit the following response to the Coroner's recommendations B and D, which relate to the Department.

### **Recommendation B**

***The Department of Education and Training increase the staff to student ratios on international trips so the chaperones have more flexibility in accommodating student or staff illness whilst managing the remaining students.***

Following the death of Blackburn High School student, Timothy Fehring, in 2019, the Department reviewed the supervision ratios for overseas excursions. As a result, the minimum supervision ratios were increased from 1:10 with a minimum of two staff to the following supervision requirements:

Number of staff	Number of students
2	1–10
3	11–20
4	21–30

## **Recommendation D**

### ***The Department of Education and Training revisit the DET Excursions Policy in light of these Findings.***

In addition to reviewing supervision ratios on overseas excursions, the Department reviewed the excursions policy more broadly and provided additional guidance for staff in the planning of excursions. Schools were informed via the 5 April 2022 School Update.

Since receiving the Coroner's Finding in July 2022, the Department has also determined to complete another review of its Excursions Policy. Once this review is complete, any updates will be published on the Department's online Policy and Advisory Library.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's response to the Coroner's Finding and recommendations.

We trust that the steps the Department has taken to address the recommendations demonstrates its commitment to student safety and its willingness to reflect, learn and take action where an opportunity for improvement is identified.

Yours sincerely



**David Howes**  
Deputy Secretary  
Schools and Regional Services  
Department of Education and Training

8 September 2022