

10 May 2024

Ms Kate Bryant
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006
Via email: cpresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Registrar,

**Coronial Finding: Investigation into the death of Angelo Angelino
(reference number COR 2021 004915)**

I refer to your letter of 1 February 2024 to Tracey Slatter, CEO of the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) regarding Coroner McGregor's findings of 23 January 2024. The TAC apologises for the delay in responding as the letter was mistakenly forwarded to the claims compensation area of the TAC to be added to the compensation claim.

I was saddened to hear of the death of Mr Angelino, and I extend my condolences to his family and friends. Every life lost on our roads is a tragedy and our hearts go out to those impacted by Mr Angelino's death.

The TAC has considered the findings and the recommendations made by the Coroner, Mr Simon McGregor. The TAC's formal response to these is detailed within this letter.

We note that the following makes up the recommendations by the Coroner:

RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to section 72(2) of the Act, I make the following recommendation:

(1) I recommend that the Department of Transport and Planning review the intersection of Ballarat Road and the Ballarat Road Service Road, Deer Park, including the pedestrian crossing, 'keep clear' zone and break in the median strip, and consider updating the road design to enhance safety for motorists and pedestrians.

(2) I recommend that open-faced motorcycle helmets without jaw protection be strongly discouraged by VicRoads, the Transport Accident Commission, motorcycle clubs and motoring groups, for all motorcycle riders utilising highways and at any official motoring functions, or competitions.

The TAC intends to implement the Coroner's recommendations. The details to follow outline how some TAC activities have already responded to the recommendation of the coroner and outlines further actions the TAC intends to take.

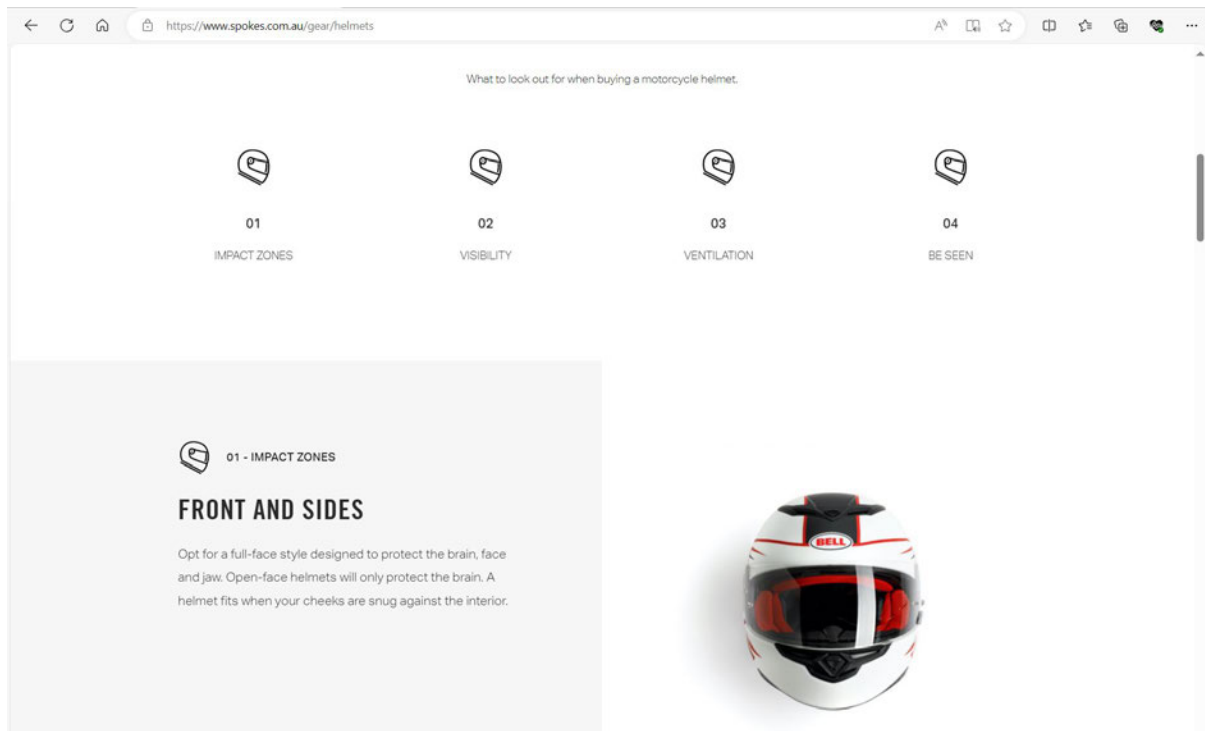
About the TAC

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 Planning and other Victorian government agencies as part of the Victorian Road Safety Partnership in its road safety efforts.

What the TAC already does to communicate on the dangers of open-faced helmets

The TAC would like to highlight some messaging that is published on the TAC's website supporting communications on this topic including recent campaigns focussed on the importance of riding with appropriate protective clothing, which we believe directly respond to the Coroner's recommendation. The TAC maintains several websites (TAC corporate and Spokes.com.au) and social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube) which are used to communicate messaging related to ways people who ride a motorcycle can protect themselves and others.

The below images highlight the content published on TAC websites related to motorcycle protective gear and specifically helmets. As is evident in these screen shots the websites promote and encourage riders to wear full-faced helmets as well as providing detail as to why these helmets offer increased protection when compared to open-faced versions. Such content is presented to visitors to the website who wish to know more about these technologies and is also promoted through targeted search engine marketing.



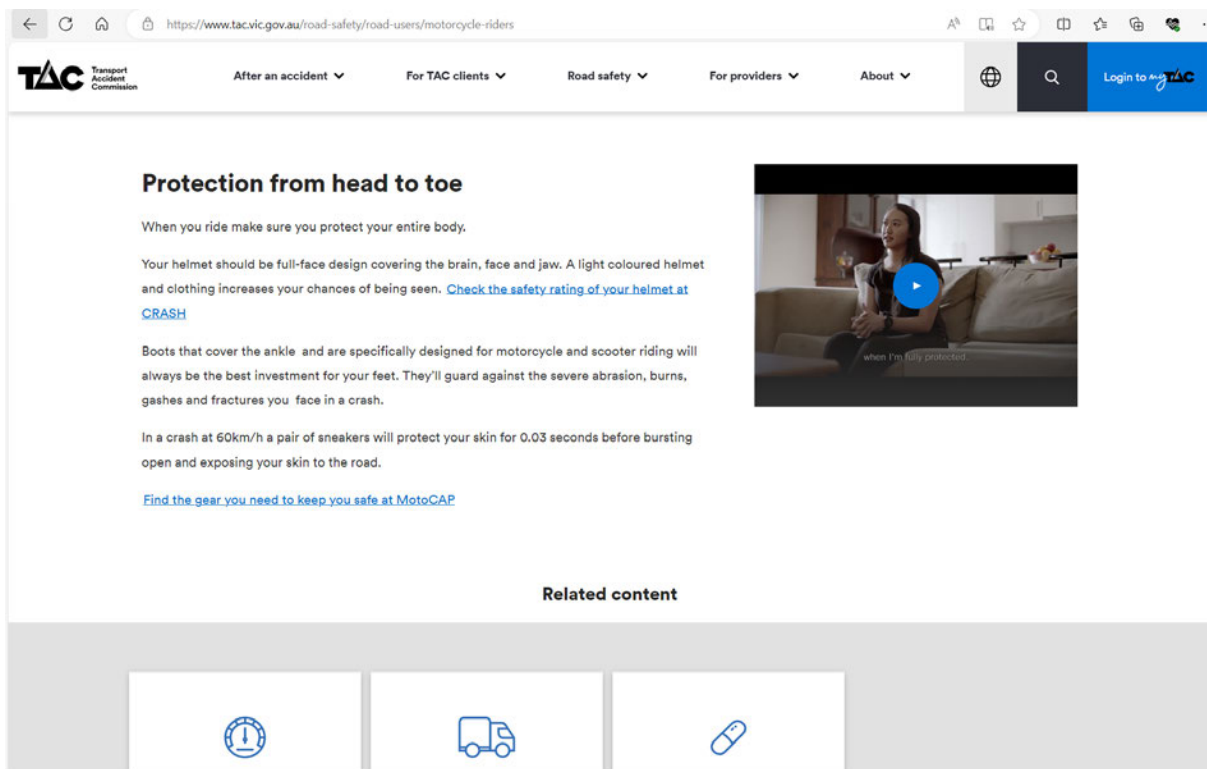


Figure 1 – Screen shot of TAC corporate and Spokes.com.au websites showing information on helmets and the benefits of full-faced helmets

In addition to the content in the above websites, the TAC also promotes content related to motorcyclists and the protection full-faced helmets can offer through social media channels. Below is a specific example of a recent campaign, dubbed Gear Box, in which riders who had been involved in crashes were invited to share stories of how their gear protected them during the crash. One story specifically, Karl's story shown below, highlighted the benefits of helmets and specifically full-face helmets. In addition to publishing this material on YouTube the campaign was shared via TAC's other social media channels and put on display at motorcycling events including the Phillip Island MotoGP.

Along with the above information the TAC contributes financially to the Consumer Rating and Assessment of Safety Helmets (CRASH) program. This program is an annual program which tests the additional protection helmets can offer riders, over and above the minimum Australian, or European, standard. The results of the testing are published via the Motocap.com.au website and include safety star ratings (out of five). Testing includes both closed, flip and open-faced types of helmets and open-faced helmets consistently demonstrate a lower level of protection that full-faced and flip helmet variants. The TAC actively promotes the results of this testing program to highlight the benefits of having helmets which provide the maximum possible protection levels.

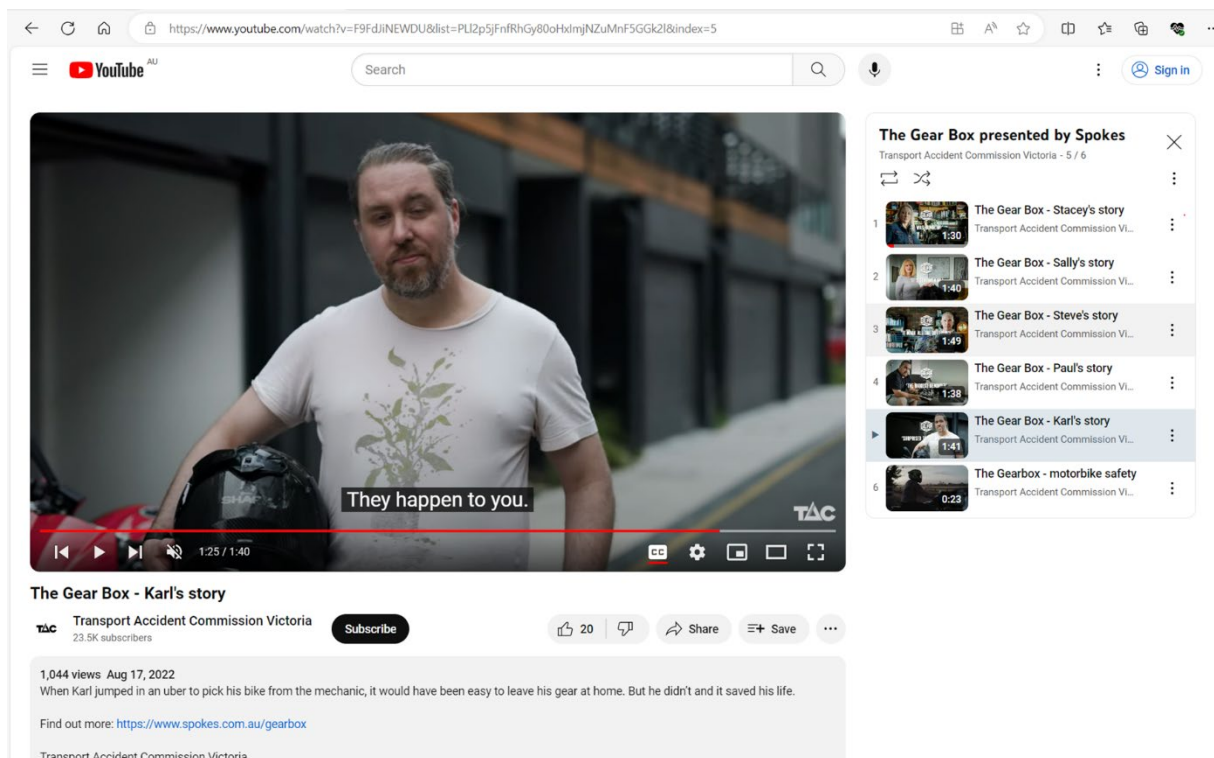


Figure 2 - Screen shot of TAC YouTube channel featuring 'Gear Box' campaign with Karl's Story highlighting the benefits of helmets

Actions the TAC will take in response to the issues raised

Along with the above activity, the TAC plans to undertake additional work in response to the Coroner's recommendation. This work includes:

- Utilise currently prepared materials which highlight the safety benefits of full-faced helmets and circulate these via the TAC's social media channels.
- Review information published on TAC websites including the TAC corporate website and Spokes.com.au to identify if any language should be adjusted to further emphasise the necessity that riders select a full-faced helmet to gain the most protection they can.

We hope you will find the above details useful in providing a response to the recommendations made following the death of Angelo Angelino. If you have any queries regarding the above details then please do not hesitate to reach out to me via my email

Yours sincerely

Samantha Cockfield
Executive General Manager Road Safety
Transport Accident Commission