



## Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

GPO Box 4509  
Melbourne, Victoria 3001 Australia  
Telephone: +61 3 9651 9999

Ref: BSEC-2-24-42031

Judge John Cain  
State Coroner  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Judge Cain

### **Inquest into the death of George Diamond (COR 2019 000968)**

I refer to your Finding delivered on 19 September 2024 following the inquest into the death of George Diamond. The Finding includes a recommendation that was directed to the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR).

#### **Recommendation 1**

*As part of DJSIR's Regulatory Review being undertaken by KPMG, consideration should be given to including:*

- a) the requirements for an individual to be cleared before starting amateur boxing/combat sports for the first time, and before returning to amateur boxing/combat sports following an injury, including whether this clearance should be obtained from a medical practitioner certified to do so; and*
- b) as part of this review, consideration should be given to whether the current Victorian Amateur Boxing League (VABL) Certificate of Fitness form should be enhanced, with more information given to medical practitioners.*

This recommendation has been carefully considered and is the subject of ongoing action that is reflected in the response that follows.

The regulatory review conducted by KPMG included consideration of the practices and policies in place in the recognised amateur associations, including the Victorian Amateur Boxing League (VABL). The regulatory review concluded in August 2024 however DJSIR has reviewed VABL's approach to medical certifications and consulted with VABL about the additional measures that it will put in place to address this recommendation.

### **Requirements for registration as an amateur boxer**

VABL have told the department that completion of a medical examination is required to accompany an application for registration as an amateur boxer. The examination is conducted by a medical practitioner and is inclusive of consideration of medical history, injuries (including concussion) and a physical assessment. Medical practitioners are required to specifically certify that based on their assessment, the individual is either fit or unfit to compete in a combat sports contest.

The department understands that VABL's concussion management policy requires that amateur contestants with a diagnosed concussion (by the ringside doctor) must, as a minimum, refrain from competition for at least 60 days and seek medical advice. Contestants must follow return-to-fight guidelines set out in the VABL's rules that recommend graduated return to sparring if symptoms have resolved and following clearance by a medical practitioner.

### **Concussion Referral and Medical Clearance form**

To address the State Coroner's recommendation to provide more information and guidance to medical practitioners who are completing medical assessments and providing medical clearances for amateur boxing participants, we understand that the VABL will implement an adapted version of the Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) *Concussion Referral and Clearance Form*, that is one of the suite of key resources developed by the ASC to support medical practitioners in the diagnosis and management of concussion.

This form serves as a record for capturing the details of the concussion sustained by the amateur boxer (completed by ringside doctor) that is provided to a treating medical practitioner who assesses and confirms that symptoms have resolved, the required 'stand down/suspension' period has been served and the individual is able to return to contact training and/or competition, with the record captured in VABL's contestant database.

DJSIR appreciates the importance of the Coroner's Finding arising from this inquest and I convey my deepest sympathy to George's family for their tragic loss.

Yours sincerely



**Tim Ada**  
Secretary

4 December 2024