



Secretary

Department of Health

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Josh Munro
Senior Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
Via e-mail: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Munro

COR 2024 2832 – Investigation into the death of Loreta Del Rossi – Department of Health response to coronial recommendation

Thank you for your letter of 29 October 2024 enclosing a copy of the State Coroner Judge Cain's finding and recommendation into the death of Loreta Del Rossi.

The State Coroner recommended that the department, in conjunction with the Victorian Poisons Information Centre (VPIC), design and run an annual advertising campaign that can be released each autumn, to warn Victorians about the dangers of consuming wild mushrooms.

I am pleased to report that, in partnership with VPIC and the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV), my department has been delivering the substance of this recommendation since 2012 through the department's Poisonous Mushrooms Communication Plan.

In specific response to the recommendation, my department met with VPIC and the RBGV on 13 December 2024 to consider how the Communication Plan may be augmented or made more effective, particularly by targeting identified high-risk communities.

The outcome of those tripartite discussions is that:

1. The Poisonous Mushrooms Communication Plan will continue to be delivered annually and will include a [Chief Health Officer Advisory](#), targeting both clinicians and the general public, a dedicated media event at the RBGV for mainstream mastheads and multicultural publications, a social media campaign via department channels, and a Better Health Channel page on mushroom poisoning [Mushroom poisoning - Better Health Channel](#)
2. in 2025, the Better Health Channel will include links to factsheets on mushroom poisoning that are translated into languages other than English.


Each autumn, the department liaises with mycologists at the RBGV who advise on the timing of mushroom growth. The implementation of the Communication Plan is appropriately timed with the emergence of mushroom growth to optimise community awareness and engagement. This appears to be successful. Our most recent data, from the 2023 and 2024 campaigns, show that our Better Health Channel pages were viewed over 410,000 times.



Thank you again for providing the State Coroner's finding in this matter and emphasising the importance of providing Victorians with information on the dangers of consuming wild mushrooms.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Nectaria Tzimourtas, Director Environmental Health [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Professor Euan M Wallace AM

Secretary

21/05/2025