

30th December 2024

Josh Munro
Senior Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Munro,

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

Thank you for your correspondence dated the 29th of October 2024. The Victorian Poisons Information Centre (VPIC) was consulted during Loreta Del Rossi's final illness, and we have expressed our condolences to her family.

The State Coroner recommended that the Department of Health, 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.

VPIC, the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV) and the Victorian Department of Health have collaborated on an annual basis to provide an advertising campaign altering Victorians to the dangers of eating wild mushrooms (Poisonous Mushrooms Communication Plan). Despite this, there are still cases that occur each year and the VPIC are supportive of further measures designed to increase community awareness.

Representatives from the VPIC met with the Department of Health on December 13th and discussed further improvements to the Poisonous Mushrooms Communication Plan. The next annual communication plan will be launched in 2025 at the commencement of the wild mushroom season and will include:

- Chief Health Officer Advisory including information for the public and clinicians regarding the dangers of ingestion of wild mushrooms.
- Better Health channel web-site page including factsheets translated into languages other than English.
- A social media campaign conducted through current Department of Health channels.
- Communication from the VPIC to Emergency Department clinicians providing information on the identification and management of cases of wild mushroom poisoning.

We thank the State Coroner for highlighting this important issue.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun', written in a cursive style.

Associate Professor Shaun Greene

Medical Director Victorian Poisons Information Centre