



Department of Justice and Community Safety

Secretary

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Our ref: 25041244

Ms Janet Lee
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
By email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Lee

RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF KATHLEEN ARNOLD (COR 2023 005162)

Thank you for your letter dated 11 February 2025, in relation to recommendations made in Coroner Ingrid Giles' Finding without inquest into the death of Kathleen Arnold.

I would like to acknowledge the tragic circumstances of Ms Arnold's death, and provide the following responses to Coroner Giles' recommendations to me as the Secretary of the Department of Justice and Community Safety:

Recommendation 1:

That the Secretary of the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety consider amending the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 (Vic), along with any required regulations, as appropriate, to prohibit home delivery of alcohol between 10pm and 10am in Victoria.

Response: The Coroner's recommendation is under consideration.

Recommendation 2:

That the Secretary of the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety consider amending the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 (Vic), along with any required regulations, as appropriate, to require a minimum two-hour delay between order and dispatch of alcohol for home delivery in Victoria.

Response: The Coroner's recommendation is under consideration.

As a member of National Cabinet, the Victorian Government has agreed to participate in a review of alcohol laws, which is being coordinated by the Council for the Australian Federation. This review follows a commitment by state and territory first ministers at National Cabinet in September 2024 to review their own alcohol laws and their impact on domestic and family violence victims, to identify and share best practice and reforms, and report back to National Cabinet on progress.

Victoria intends to work together with other states and territories through the Council for the Australian Federation to consider best practice approaches to reducing alcohol-related harm, with a view to determining a coordinated approach to the National Cabinet commitment.

The reviews to be undertaken by each jurisdiction will focus on identifying evidence-based reforms, having regard to recommendations from the Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches considered by National Cabinet, which included consideration of restrictions on alcohol delivery timeframes.

I note a third recommendation was made by Coroner Giles:

That the Victorian Government, led by the Victorian Department of Health, develop: (i) a new Alcohol Action Plan; or (ii) a program of work (including specific actions, timeframes, accountabilities, and public reporting on implementation and evaluation) to address alcohol-related harms in Victoria.

This recommendation was noted by Coroner Giles in recent findings relating to the deaths of Mr RJ, Mr RT and Mr HS, for the purposes of completeness and to reflect the range of circumstances in which Victorians die from the effects of alcohol.

I advise that my department has met with the Department of Health and will engage on a coordinated response to implementing this recommendation, especially in areas that have a common interest between programs, policy and treatment.

Should you require any further information, please contact Ms Simone Cusack, Executive Director, Gaming and Liquor, [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Kate Houghton PSM
Secretary

01/05/2025