



Department of Justice and Community Safety

Secretary

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Our ref: 25110987

Niels Gabriels
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

By email: team7@courts.vic.gov.au

Dear Niels Gabriels,

RE: COR 2023 007204 Investigation into the death of Shuyang Wang

Thank you for the correspondence dated 31 October 2025 regarding Coroner Jamieson's finding without inquest into the death of Shuyang Wang (COR 2023 007204).

Coroner Jamieson made several recommendations in relation to the death of Shuyang Wang, with the aim of preventing like deaths and promoting public health and safety. Three of these recommendations have been directed to the Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS).

In preparing this response, DJCS have engaged Emergency Management Victoria (EMV), Life Saving Victoria (LSV) and the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF).

Recommendation 1

“...that the Victorian Water Safety Coordination Forum with the support of Emergency Management Victoria and Life Saving Victoria, develop a suitable instrument, subplan or equivalent framework that clearly articulates roles, responsibilities, arrangements and accountability for risk assessment, prevention, operational preparedness and incident control in relation to drowning prevention”

DJCS considers that this recommendation will be implemented, on the basis that work to implement the recommendation is already planned.

The Water Safety Coordination Forum (WSCF) was established to draw together Victoria's collective expertise in water safety and provide a platform to coordinate cross-government water safety efforts, planning and policy development, and to provide strategic advice to government on key water safety priorities and risks.

As part of its forward plan of work, the WSCF has committed to developing a governance framework which clarifies the water safety roles and responsibilities of community, industry, and government. The development of the governance framework will be led by EMV and LSV and is anticipated to be delivered by December 2027.

Recommendation 2

“...that the Victorian Water Safety Coordination Forum prioritise data-sharing to fully understand the burden of non-fatal drowning among CALD communities.”

DJCS considers that this recommendation will be implemented, on the basis that work to implement the recommendation is already underway.

In their review of Victoria’s water safety arrangements, the Inspector-General for Emergency Management (IGEM) recommended that the Victorian Government establishes an ongoing process to develop and maintain an evidence-based statewide picture of water safety risk. The IGEM recommended that this process should identify data needs and collect data to resolve gaps and include data and evidence sharing mechanisms and permissions. In its response to the recommendation, the Victorian Government committed the WSCF to consider improvements to data and evidence sharing capabilities across the sector.

To progress this commitment, the WSCF established a Research and Data working group whose purpose is to strengthen the evidence base for drowning prevention in Victoria by improving access to, sharing of, and collaboration around data and research.

The Research and Data working group is currently seeking the establishment of a data sharing agreement between the Department of Health (DH) and LSV. This data sharing agreement will aim to provide a more accurate and comprehensive picture of the drowning burden in Victoria and allow for an examination of injury severity, health outcomes, and geographic trends across population subgroups, waterway and activity types.

With this understanding, the WSCF and its member organisations can deliver more targeted, evidence-informed water safety interventions. It will also improve the sector’s understanding of risks for vulnerable groups, including multicultural communities, the evaluation of prevention efforts and strengthen evidence for policy and planning.

It is anticipated that the data sharing agreement between DH and LSV will be completed by December 2026. However, the Research and Data working group will also continue to work to improve data sharing on an ongoing basis.

Recommendation 3

“...that the Department of Justice and Community Safety and the Department of Treasury and Finance review current campaign spending to enable increased reach of water safety messaging in line with current (at-risk) priority target audiences”

DJCS considers that this recommendation will be implemented through existing processes.

DJCS delivers an annual summer water safety awareness campaign as part of the Play it Safe by the Water (PISBTW) public education and awareness program. This awareness

program is aimed at increasing safety around water and reducing the number of drowning incidents in Victoria.

Target audiences for the water safety awareness campaign are reviewed annually and determined through data drawn from LSV's annual Aquatic Injury Prevention Agenda and Victorian Drowning Report. These reports provide insight into at-risk populations, prevention strategies and the monitoring of progress against drowning prevention targets. The water safety awareness campaign generally considers the 5 and 10-year drowning data averages to ensure that the campaign reflects and addresses broader drowning trends and does not react to one-off spikes in drownings. LSV is also engaged throughout the planning and delivery of each years' campaign.

The 2025 – 26 water safety awareness campaign focuses on three target audiences and includes specific in-language water safety messaging for multicultural audiences:

- 'Unsinkable Guy'
 - males 45-64 years of age
- 'Be Safe'
 - multicultural males 25-44 years of age
 - translated into Chinese, Indian, Filipino and Vietnamese
- 'What You Oughta Know About Water'
 - parents and carers of children 0-4 years of age
 - translated into Arabic, Chinese and Vietnamese

Victoria's annual summer water safety awareness campaign is funded through recurrent base funding. In the past, the additional supplementary funding has also been provided through the Victorian State budget process. DJCS will continue to consider funding needs for the campaign and will seek additional funding through state budget processes as required.

Should you require further information, please contact Jenni Rigby, Chief Executive, Emergency Management Victoria [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Emma Cassar
Secretary

28 / 01 /2026