



## Secretary

Department of Health

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Niels Gabriels  
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Coroners Court of Victoria  
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Dear Mr Gabriels

Thank you for providing Coroner Audrey Jamieson's finding dated 11 November 2025 into the death of RBJ. I offer my condolences to RBJ's family and loved ones.

Coroner Jamieson directed the following recommendation to the Department of Health (the department):

*In the interests of promoting public health and safety and with the aim of preventing like deaths, I recommend that the Victorian Department of Health review measures either implemented or under consideration in South Australia and New South Wales to reduce harms associated with recreational nitrous oxide use, and determine whether any similar measures might be appropriate to introduce in Victoria, taking into account relevant harm reduction principles.*

The department is aware of the increase in high-volume nitrous oxide use in Victoria and, in particular, the associated harm and potential permanent and irreversible health impacts. Insights provided to the department by Victorian specialist clinicians (including data from the Victorian Poisons Information Centre) signal a rise in harms over recent years, particularly with the emergence of large volume canisters and tanks. In light of these matters, the department updated its advice regarding nitrous oxide on the Better Health Channel in March 2025, which is accessible at the following link: [Nitrous oxide | Better Health Channel](#).

The department is currently exploring options to reduce nitrous oxide harm for Victorians and is in the process of determining which measures may be appropriate for introduction in Victoria. The department has engaged with other Australian jurisdictions as part of this work and is aware of and has reviewed the relevant measures implemented or under consideration in South Australia and New South Wales. It will continue to monitor and assess progress in these jurisdictions.

Inter-jurisdictional discussions to date demonstrate that growing nitrous oxide-related harm is not isolated to Victoria and that there is likely value in a nationally coordinated approach to nitrous oxide inhalation.

The department will maintain a collaborative approach to nitrous oxide policy and regulatory options, communicating regularly with other jurisdictions including the Commonwealth Government.

I trust this response is of assistance to the Court.

Yours sincerely



**Jenny Atta PSM**

Secretary

13/02/2026