



**VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT  
SOLICITOR'S OFFICE**

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Mr Richard Williamson  
Associate to Vice President Watson  
Fair Work Commission

***By email: chambers.watson.vp@fwc.gov.au***

Dear Associate

**Modern Award Review: Family and domestic violence leave clause (AM 2015/1)**

During the proceedings in the above matter, on 1 December 2016, Vice President Watson asked the State of Victoria to provide further information about what has been done to date by the Victorian Government with respect to the implementation of recommendation 191 of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence.

We are instructed as follows in response to the Commission's request:

Recommendation 191 is the recommendation that the Victorian Government, through the Council of Australian Governments (**COAG**), encourage the Commonwealth Government to amend the National Employment Standards (**NES**) to include an entitlement to family violence leave.

On 23 August 2016, the Premier of Victoria wrote to the Prime Minister and his state and territory counterparts, urging family violence to be considered as a priority issue by COAG and COAG councils, and advocating for family violence leave to be included as an entitlement in the NES.

COAG will next meet on 9 December 2016 and has agreed that the national actions recommended by the Royal Commission into Family Violence will be on the agenda.

This will include the Victorian Government recommendation that COAG agree:

- (a) to consider introducing paid family violence leave in the National Employment Standards; and
- (b) that senior official will progress work to implement this reform.

Further information about the COAG 2016 national summit can be found at the following link: <https://coagvawsummit.pmc.gov.au/communique>.

Yours faithfully  
Victorian Government Solicitor's Office



David Catanese  
Managing Principal Solicitor