

Dear Mr Hulls

It's time to take police shootings seriously.

I want to join my voice to the growing number of people who think that it is unacceptable that deaths involving police in Victoria are investigated by the police themselves.

The recent fatal shooting of 15 year old Tyler Cassidy was a tragic reminder of the long line of deaths and near-deaths involving police in this state.

At present these deaths are investigated by Victoria Police. The conflict of interest is clear.

International human rights norms, which are now enshrined in our Human Rights Charter, stipulate that the right to life is not adequately protected unless deaths involving police are investigated by a body that is genuinely independent of the police, given sufficient powers and resources to undertake rigorous and effective investigations, subject to public scrutiny, and able to facilitate full participation by the family of the victim.

It is time that Victoria took urgent steps to prevent more deaths from happening. We can't afford to put off creating an independent body to effectively investigate police shootings and other deaths in custody any longer.

Yours sincerely,

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The Honourable Rob Hulls MP
Attorney-General
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“Every person has the right to life and has the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of life.”

Section 9, Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION
OF POLICE SHOOTINGS
IS A
HUMAN RIGHT