

FINDING

I find that Hamidur Rahman died on 20 March 2002 at Leeton, New South Wales. The cause of death is 'Anaphylactic shock' suffered after eating peanut butter on a school excursion.

HAMIDUR'S RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Minister for Education and Training:

1. That staff and student training in the area of 'allergy' awareness be implemented immediately in all public and private sector schools. Training programmes should include:
 - Identifying students at risk
 - Allergy prevention
 - Risk management
 - Recognising Anaphylaxis
 - Emergency treatment (particularly the use of the EpiPen)
2. All staff in pre-school and child care centres undertake 'allergy and Anaphylaxis awareness' training to ensure the safest environment for their children who may be 'at risk'.
3. That a system of accreditation be developed to recognise teachers and other staff who have undertaken the training programme
4. That all schools and childcare facilities undertake 'risk assessment' for all educational or recreational activities
5. That an audit of all schools and childcare facilities be undertaken to identify children who suffer allergies
6. That all schools require parents/guardians to immediately alert them to any allergies or medical conditions that may affect their child.
7. That this information is to be recorded in a central register accessible by all staff. That the register be continually updated.
8. That the 'Be A Mate' Programme devised by Anaphylaxis Australia be adopted in all schools.
9. That the Anaphylaxis Guidelines be amended at page 7 point 3 to read 'If the form indicates the student has an allergy/s **or** has either been hospitalised or prescribed an EpiPen or both, a meeting should be organised with the parent'.

To the Minister for Health

10. That the current programme of 'Registered Nurse Educators' under the auspices of the Department of Health be continued and expanded to ensure all educators receive timely and expert guidance on the issues of allergies and anaphylaxis management.

11. That the Anaphylaxis Working Party develop a universal set of competencies for Anaphylaxis training.
12. That an awareness campaign for all medical practitioners in both general and specialist fields be devised to alert them to the significant dangers of food and other allergies and the possibility of an Anaphylactic reaction. It should be impressed on these practitioners the need to have children tested for allergies. It should also be stressed that if a child is found to be 'allergic' a risk management plan should be devised immediately.
13. The awareness campaign should also target practitioners of homeopathy and naturopathy.
14. That all children at risk of Anaphylaxis be subject to a management plan. Management plans should be the same for all children and not different plans devised by different doctors.
15. That a Register of Deaths from Anaphylaxis be implemented to identify Anaphylaxis as a cause of death and the circumstances of death.
16. That a public awareness campaign should be devised and implemented to ensure the general community understands the problems associated with allergies and the possibility of severe reactions especially Anaphylactic shock.

To the Attorney General

17. That Legislation similar to the proposed Canadian 'Sabrina's Law' be enacted to govern both schools and childcare centres in the public and private sector. The intention of the Legislation would be to protect pupils at risk of Anaphylaxis and to safeguard teachers and staff from prosecution if an act done to manage or save a child was undertaken in 'good faith'. (a copy of the Bill is attached).

Magistrate Jacqueline M. Milledge
Senior Deputy State Coroner
9 September 2005