

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO MEET THE CORONERS RECOMMENDATIONS IN RELATION TO SMOKE ALARMS AND COMMUNITY CARE CLIENTS**

As part of the findings in relation to Case COR2008002158 (2012) Svikers, the Victorian State Coroners Officer has recommended :

- ***That during initial needs care assessment, community care providers advise community care clients that it is mandatory for all homes in Victoria to have a working smoke alarm,***
- ***In homes where community care is to be provided and there is no smoke alarm, the installation of a smoke alarm is organised in line with service provision,***
- ***That community care providers promote regular testing and maintaining of smoke alarms to the client, their family and/or friends or provide assistance for their clients to test and maintain smoke alarms if required.***

To meet the Coroners recommendations MFB is advocating use a more sustainable smoke alarm which eliminates the need for annual battery change over and only requires a handyman to install. This is a:

### **Stand alone Photoelectric smoke alarm with an in-built ten year long life lithium battery**

MFB have coordinated two statewide buyers groups for all service providers to purchase this type of smoke alarm in bulk . Normally retailing for \$38 per unit, the buying power of the group reduced the unit cost to only \$16.30 ex GST per unit on the previous order. (Total group order will set final price per unit).

Due to the success of the the last two buys and demand from providers for another, MFB is now organising a third bulk buy . As with the previous buys, every smoke alarm will have the following stencil on the face, '10 Year Battery Alarm' and 'Replace Entire Unit in 2025'

### **To be part of the buyers group**

- Identify how many smoke alarms you would like to purchase and email this information to Acting Station Officer Nick Petersen at [npetersen@mfb.vic.gov.au](mailto:npetersen@mfb.vic.gov.au) by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015**
- **Minimum order quantity – (10 year 'stand alone' battery smoke alarms) – 48 units**
- **Minimum order quantity – (240 V with 10 year battery back up) - 15 units**
- MFB will submit the bulk order to the distributor and get the unit price
- MFB will then advise you of the unit price and the total cost to your workplace and advise of how to make the payment
- Depending on the size of the order the distributor has advised that delivery will be approximately 3 months and that each order will be delivered directly to individual providers in the buyers group.

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**For a full written transcript of the Coroners Recommendations go to:**

[http://www.coronerscourt.vic.gov.au/resources/b21877fb-4b8c-423a-8619-9b99a81f3ae3/audreyjoycesvikers\\_215808.pdf](http://www.coronerscourt.vic.gov.au/resources/b21877fb-4b8c-423a-8619-9b99a81f3ae3/audreyjoycesvikers_215808.pdf).

**For the Department of Health Ageing and Aged Care Branch response to the Coroners findings go to:**

[http://www.coronerscourt.vic.gov.au/resources/4d577e78-db60-4dfa-9b18-5c8d7b230222/responsesdoh\\_audrey+svikers.pdf](http://www.coronerscourt.vic.gov.au/resources/4d577e78-db60-4dfa-9b18-5c8d7b230222/responsesdoh_audrey+svikers.pdf)

### **MFB Free Smoke Alarm Information Session – Within Metropolitan Fire District**

Developed specifically for community sector workers (Assessors/ OT's / Case Managers and Home Maintenance Workers) and includes information about:

- Coronial recommendations related to community aged care clients,
- Best and sustainable practice
- Assessing older people for smoke alarms
- Types of smoke alarms
- Assistive technology and specialist smoke alarms
- Placement
- Maintenance
- Faults
- Life span

**To arrange a Smoke Alarm Information Session contact:**

Acting Station Officer Nick Petersen on 9420 3881 or at [npetersen@mfb.vic.gov.au](mailto:npetersen@mfb.vic.gov.au) or

Station Officer Danny Gunn on 9420 3913 or at [dgunn@mfb.vic.gov.au](mailto:dgunn@mfb.vic.gov.au)



Test  
Monthly



10 Year  
Battery  
Alarm

Replace  
Entire Unit In  
2024

10 Year Battery Alarm  
Model: SA-10  
Part No. SA-10-1000  
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