**Scissor lifts must have spotter: coroner**

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Scissor lifts should not be operated unless there is a person on the ground acting as a safety spotter, South Australia's state coroner has recommended.

Jorge Castillo-Riffo, 54, was working alone when he was crushed between a scissor lift and the slab of the floor above at the site of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital in 2014.

He later died of catastrophic brain injuries.

In findings delivered on Thursday, coroner Mark Johns recommended the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) should investigate the standardisation of controls in scissor lifts.

He also recommended that, until that standardisation is in place, scissor lifts should not be operated unless there is a spotter on the ground to activate the emergency lowering mechanism.

During the inquest, Mr Castillo-Riffo's partner, Pam Gurner-Hall, said he was concerned about safety practices during construction.

"Specifically he talked to me about the lack of knowledge in regards to how this scissor lift was going to be used and he spoke to me of some issues that he'd witnessed on the site," she said.

Ms Gurner-Hall said the lift had several design flaws, was inappropriate for the space and should not have been used by a lone worker.

It is unclear exactly how much time passed between the time Mr Castillo-Riffo was crushed and the time he was found by a passing worker.

The inquest heard the rescue effort was further delayed when the worker was unable to hit the emergency release button.

Mr Johns found the work method was not safe because the safety lowering lever was located in a position that was "very difficult" to access by any rescuer.

