



# Department of Justice

Office of the Secretary

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12 AUG 2014

Our ref: CD/14/290878

State Coroner Judge Ian Gray  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006  
DX 212560

Dear Judge Gray

## Inquest into the death of Darren Parkes

I write in response to your coronial findings and recommendations arising from the inquest into the death of Mr Darren Parkes (2006/1090), received by the Department of Justice on 22 April 2014.

I note that one recommendation is directed to St Vincent's Correctional Health Services, one recommendation is assigned to G4S Custodial Services and the third involves both parties. Given the relevance of the recommendations to both the correctional system and the correctional health system, it is also appropriate for the department to indicate its views. I appreciate the extension of time your office has granted the department to provide this advice.

The department is supportive of the submissions provided by G4S Custodial Services and St Vincent's Correctional Health Services, against each recommendation.

The department has also completed the following initiatives, relevant to the issues raised in Mr Parkes' coronial inquest:

- Changes to the *Corrections Act 1986* in 2013 provide clearer guidance on the disclosure of information within Victoria's prison system. As a result of the legislative changes and to further support good practice in sharing health information, Justice Health has developed the 'Sharing prisoner health information' guideline. The document provides guidance to health service providers and prison General Managers on appropriate sharing of information, and was circulated to all prisons and prison health providers in June 2014.
- In May 2014 Corrections Victoria reminded all public prison General Managers to ensure that all calls to reception staff are appropriately responded to, particularly if they relate to the safety and welfare of prisoners. General Managers were also requested to ensure local processes were

in place for all staff to exchange critical information in a timely manner and that the information be documented, preferably in the prisoner's Individual Management File.

If you have any queries relating to the department's response on this matter, please contact Mr Jonathan Kaplan, Director, Office of Correctional Services Review on telephone (03) 9947 1664.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Wilson', written over a horizontal yellow line.

**Greg Wilson**  
Secretary