



Department of Justice and Community Safety

Secretary

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Our ref: EBC 2006316
Your ref: COR 2018/2778

Coroner Simon McGregor
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Coroner McGregor

I refer to your findings and recommendations delivered on 6 April 2020 regarding the death of Mr Darren Brandon (COR 2018/2778) at the Royal Melbourne Hospital on 10 June 2018.

Of your eight recommendations, two were directed to all institutional parties and one was directed to the Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS). DJCS has accepted all three recommendations which are currently being implemented as detailed below.

Recommendation 1 – To enhance existing continuity of care, the various custodial health stakeholders train their staff about what information on their systems is visible to other stakeholders.

DJCS has accepted this recommendation as it relates to prison health services.

In April 2020, Justice Health released updated procedural documentation, including operating procedures, work instructions and training manuals for JCare, the electronic medical record in Victoria's prison system. This ensures that health and mental health service providers at all prisons are aware of what information is available across their systems.

These JCare training materials are also being developed into electronic modules which will further enhance the training experience available to all JCare users.

Recommendation 2 – Given that forensic clinicians have indicated that they would be most assisted by being able to obtain all necessary information from a single database, the interested institutional parties in this inquest, and such other stakeholders as they determine necessary for an effective review process, including but not limited to Justice Health, should meet to consider the viability of such an innovation, and report back to me once they have done so.

DJCS has accepted this recommendation.

DJCS is exploring options to better integrate JCare with Victoria Police's existing Custodial Health Service systems. Further, efforts are continuing to identify opportunities to increase the flow of information between different justice and broader health system stakeholders.

Justice Health is also leading work within DJCS to bring together relevant stakeholders to explore the viability of a single database of the kind recommended. This will include representatives of a range of key justice and health sector entities, as well as technology experts, to ensure that all potential options are explored.

***Recommendation 8** – That Corrections Victoria and Forensicare ensure that, upon the arrival of a prisoner at a prison, the appropriate reception staff promptly note and act upon any custodial management issues recorded on the accompanying documentation in a timely fashion, including by capturing life threatening health, suicide or self-harm risk issues in JCare, or otherwise bringing it to the attention of the appropriate clinical staff working at the prison. This should include a timely remedial mechanism for admission documentation which arrives after the prisoner has been through the reception processes.*

DJCS has accepted this recommendation.

Since Mr Brandon's death, Corrections Victoria has been working with health providers to streamline information sharing processes. This includes ensuring that a prisoner's health information, which is transported in hard copy with the prisoner from the police cells to the relevant reception prison, is now also emailed directly to the health service at the reception prison, making this information more readily available to clinical staff to inform the health and mental health assessment process.

I am advised that all recommendations will be implemented by December 2021.

Should you require any further information, please contact Allison Will, Director, Justice Assurance and Review Office at DJCS on 0437 458 158 or by email at allison.will@justice.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Falkingham
Secretary