

Inquest into the death of Harry McMaster Tickell Waugh

Harry McMaster Tickell Waugh died on 4 November 2013. Harry died on a rural property after being run over by a reversing LandCruiser station wagon.

Coroner Christine Clements delivered her findings of inquest on 23 January 2015.

The Queensland Government responds to recommendations directed to government agencies at inquests by informing the community if a recommendation will be implemented or the reason why a recommendation is not supported. Further information relating the implementation of recommendations can be obtained from the responsible agency named in the response.

Recommendation 1

It is recommended that the legislative requirement to restrain children in age appropriate child restraints be extended to include all circumstances where the child is in a motor vehicle which is moving, irrespective of whether or not the vehicle is on a road.

Response and action: the recommendation will not be implemented.

Responsible agency: Department of Transport and Main Roads.

On 22 September 2015, the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply responded:

The Department of Transport and Main Roads considered the recommendation and decided that desired outcomes will not be achieved by extending regulation of child restraint requirements to private property. Enforcement of such regulation on private property would not be practical and the desired outcomes are best achieved by education.

Police officers and other enforcement officers do not generally conduct routine enforcement duties on private property and are unlikely to be in a position to observe a contravention and act to enforce. Preventative and educative initiatives designed to maximise child safety in and around vehicles will be considered as an important focus of broader road safety campaigns.