

Inquest into the death of Anthony Mark Perry

In the early hours of 23 March 2010, Anthony Perry died in the Rockhampton watchhouse, five hours after he had been taken into custody. Mr Perry died accidentally as a result of respiratory depression caused by self-administered alcohol and drugs.

The then State Coroner, Michael Barnes, delivered his findings on 31 May 2012.

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 2 - replacement of the closed-circuit television

In view of the important role closed-circuit television plays in monitoring prisoners and investigating incidents that inevitably occur in watchhouses, more up to date and reliable equipment than that presently in use in the Rockhampton watchhouse is highly desirable. Accordingly, I recommend the Queensland Police Service give priority to its replacement.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Queensland Police Service.

On 6 February 2007, the then government announced a commitment to fund the upgrade of closed circuit television equipment in police stations and watchhouses in Queensland deed of grant in trust communities.

An audit of surveillance facilities in all 24 hour watchhouses was undertaken to determine scope and costs with upgrading these facilities from analogue to digital MPEG-4 technology.

Approval was given for an external contractor to carry out preparation of the contract documentation to go out to tender. This documentation will include the building design for the closed circuit television upgrade.

A digital video recorder closed circuit television system is currently installed in the Rockhampton watchhouse.