Inquest into the death of Ann Louise Parsons

Ann Louise Parsons died on 15 October 2012 at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Ms Parsons’ death was due to unexpected complications following surgery to remove a brain tumour.

Coroner Christine Clemens delivered her findings on 6 October 2017.

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.

The departments named in this response will provide implementation updates until the recommendation is delivered. Further information relating the implementation of recommendations can be obtained from the responsible minister named in the response.

**Recommendation 1a**

The Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital conduct in-service training on the importance of documentation and reinforce the policy requirements regarding documentation for all medical staff on the neurosurgical ward, including consultants.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is under consideration.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health.

On 9 April 2018 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

Representatives of Metro North Hospital and Health Service, senior management and clinical leaders will review the recommendation. The outcome of the review team consideration will be reported in 2018.

**Recommendation 1b**

The Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital implement regular follow-up audits of medical entries to ensure that policy 74100/Proc: Documentation in the Patient Record is being complied with.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is under consideration.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health.

On 9 April 2018 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

Representatives of Metro North Hospital and Health Service, senior management and clinical leaders will review the recommendation. The outcome of the review team consideration will be reported in 2018.

**Recommendation 1c**

The Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital amend the clinical/case pathway for a craniotomy patient with a brain tumour. When a neurosurgical patient presents with preoperative communication deficits, a comprehensive review by either a speech pathologist or member of the neurology team is undertaken to ensure there is a timely baseline assessment undertaken.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is under consideration.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health.
On 9 April 2018 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

Representatives of Metro North Hospital and Health Service, senior management and clinical leaders will review the recommendation. The outcome of the review team consideration will be reported in 2018.

**Recommendation 1d**

The Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital amend the clinical/case pathway for a craniotomy patient with a brain tumour to require the operating surgeon(s) complete a preoperative comprehensive detailed high cognitive function neurological assessment. The assessment must be clearly documented on the record.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is under consideration.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health.

On 9 April 2018 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

Representatives of Metro North Hospital and Health Service, senior management and clinical leaders will review the recommendation. The outcome of the review team consideration will be reported in 2018.

**Recommendation 1e**

The Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital amend the clinical/case pathway for a craniotomy patient with a brain tumour to consider a preoperative CT/MRI scan within 3-5 days prior to surgery. The surgeon be required to document the reason if a decision is made not to arrange such preoperative imaging.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is under consideration.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health.

On 9 April 2018 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

Representatives of Metro North Hospital and Health Service, senior management and clinical leaders will review the recommendation. The outcome of the review team consideration will be reported in 2018.

**Recommendation 1f**

The Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital present Mrs Parsons’ case in junior medical and nursing neurological training to highlight the importance of identifying changes in speech, restlessness and a change in the patient’s ability to follow commands.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is under consideration.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health.
Recommendation 1g

The Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital undertake an audit to check whether consultant to consultant discharge of neurological patients is occurring in the intensive care unit in accordance with the root cause analysis recommendations.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is under consideration.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health.

On 9 April 2018 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

Representatives of Metro North Hospital and Health Service, senior management and clinical leaders will review the recommendation. The outcome of the review team consideration will be reported in 2018.