

Inquest into the death of Farrin John Veters

Farrin John Veters died at the Borallon Correctional Centre on 26 October 2011 when he hanged himself using a sheet tied to exposed bars in his cell.

State Coroner Terry Ryan delivered his findings of inquest on 28 May 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.

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 1

I recommend that the Queensland Government review the allocation of resources to the Prison Mental Health Service and Queensland Corrective Services to ensure that the capacity of staff in those agencies to respond to the mental health needs of prisoners is established at an appropriate level, and can then be adjusted to respond to fluctuations in the prison population.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health (lead) supported by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

On 21 January 2016 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

The Department of Health is considering the coroner's recommendation and will provide more information in early 2016.

On 29 February 2016 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services responded:

On 3 July 2015, the Acting Director-General, Queensland Health approved the allocation of additional funding of \$2,978,443 in 2015-16 for prison mental health services across the state to better respond to the demand for prison mental health services. The additional funding was transferred to West Moreton Hospital Health Service (HHS), Wide Bay HHS, Townsville HHS, and Central Queensland HHS. The funding is annual recurrent and will increase further in 2016 -17 to address growth in prisoner numbers and demand for mental health services.