

Inquest into the death of Melina Maree Cuttler

Melina Maree Cuttler died on 12 February 2013 from multiple injuries due to a fall from height. Ms Cuttler experienced a deterioration in her mental health over a short period. When she attended Ipswich Hospital mental health unit and was directed to the Emergency Department. Ms Cuttler's assessment was delayed and her psychotic state deteriorated rapidly. Ms Cuttler left the Emergency Department and made her way to a nearby construction site where she climbed a crane and fell from a height of 26 metres.

Deputy State Coroner John Lock delivered his findings of inquest on 13 March 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

I recommend that West Moreton Hospital and Health Service consider the structure of the Department of Emergency mental health team at Ipswich Hospital and in particular as to whether its leadership structure should include a position for direct psychiatric input and leadership.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health.

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

West Moreton Hospital and Health Service considered the structure of the Department of Emergency Medicine mental health team at Ipswich Hospital. In January 2015 a psychiatrist was engaged to provide leadership and work directly with and the Emergency Department mental health team. In addition, there has been increase in the number of psychiatric registrars and clinical nursing staff to support the activity within the Emergency Department mental health team.