

Inquest into the death of Tony William Gates

Tony Gates died overnight between 5 August 2010 and 6 August 2010 while an inmate at the Wolston Correctional Centre. He died due to acute myocardial infarction caused by extensive underlying undiagnosed coronary atherosclerosis.

Coroner Christine Clements delivered her findings of inquest on 19 April 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.

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It was of some concern that the registered nurse on pill parade expressed frustration about the documentation process stipulated by Offender Health Services. On my understanding of her evidence, the issue of any pain relief is now supposed to be documented, and referred for approval to the medical centre. The registered nurse said her experience in attempting to comply with this process was it was unworkable and unable to be complied with, within the time constraints of prison scheduling.

I consider this is a matter that should be reviewed by Offender Health Services

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:

The process described was a new change to practice and that the challenges which were experienced were likely a part of the change process. It is not unusual to experience some resistance during any change process. In accordance with professional practice standards, legal requirements and for the safety of the prisoner who requires medication for pain relief, a health assessment of the individual must be performed. This includes a review of the individuals prescribed medications, current management and treatment plans.

Queensland Corrective Services and Queensland Health work in partnership to ensure compliance with legislative requirements regulations for the safety of offenders and staff. A workable and sustainable process has been implemented into prisons ensuring the management of medications complies with legislation, *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. Queensland Corrective Services and Queensland Health work in partnership to ensure compliance with legislative requirements regulations for the safety of offenders/patients and staff. Processes are now embedded as standard practice and will continue to be monitored through regular medication audits.