

Inquest into the death of Paul Michael Low

Paul Michael Low died on 25 September 2012 from injuries sustained when the driver of the vehicle in which he was a passenger lost control of it causing it to leave the road and strike a tree. The crash was caused by the dangerous driving of the vehicle which minutes earlier had accelerated to high speed immediately after passing a police vehicle travelling in the opposite direction.

State Coroner Terry Ryan delivered his findings of inquest on 26 February 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 the Queensland Police Service (QPS) pursuit policy be amended to ensure that a pursuit is considered to have commenced in circumstances where the QPS engage in extended following of a vehicle without the lights and siren being activated. This could be achieved by including a second limb, based on the definition in the *Victoria Police Manual*, so that a pursuit is taken to have commenced when police continue to follow a vehicle that is taking deliberate action to avoid being stopped.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is in progress.

Responsible agency: Queensland Police Service.

On 17 July 2015, the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services responded:

Relevant sections of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) *Traffic manual* are being reviewed along with the draft QPS Pursuit Policy Review report referenced by the coroner as well as QPS Ethical Standards Command pursuit reviews. The Victoria Police has provided copies of its pursuit policies and guidelines and the definition of when a pursuit commences which will be analysed in line with the coroner's recommendation.

Consultation with key stakeholders will be conducted during this review. Amendments to the QPS Pursuit Policy are being considered to reflect coronial and consultation report outcomes.

On 12 January 2016 the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services responded:

Draft amendments to the QPS Pursuit Policy have been prepared and are undergoing informal consultation with key stakeholders. The draft amendments prohibit police from continuing to follow a vehicle that is taking deliberate action to avoid being stopped when the police vehicle's lights and siren have not been activated.

The coroner identified the Victoria Police model as a possible option, however the Victoria Police has revised its Pursuit Policy and removed the second limb in the pursuit definition.

Formal consultation will be conducted and approval sought from QPS senior executive on the draft amendments in 2016.

Following approval, a compulsory training program will be developed prior to the launch of the revised QPS Pursuit Policy.

It is anticipated that implementation of the coroner's recommendation will be completed by June 2016.

On 12 July 2016 the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services responded:

A best practice review and consultation is continuing with internal stakeholders on the draft amendments to the QPS Pursuit Policy to prevent QPS officers from continuing to follow a vehicle that is taking deliberate action to avoid being stopped without the lights and siren being activated.

Components of the QPS safe driving policy which do not directly relate to pursuits have been adopted and were published in the December 2015 QPS *Traffic Manual* amendment issue.

Formal consultation and presentation to the QPS senior executive will be conducted in mid-2016. If supported by the QPS senior executive, a compulsory training program will be developed and launched for all officers to ensure compliance with the revised policy.

It is anticipated that implementation of the coroner's recommendation will be completed by June 2017.

On 27 January 2017 the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services responded:

The policy to prohibit police from continuing to follow a vehicle that is taking deliberate action to avoid being stopped when police vehicle's lights and siren have not been activated was supported by key stakeholders and approved by QPS in December 2016. The QPS will develop and deliver a training package and introduce the policy service-wide.

The training pack and the revised pursuit policy is scheduled for release in June 2017.

On 9 August 2017 the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services responded:

A compulsory training package which will include an Online Learning Program (OLP) is currently being developed by the QPS. It is expected this OLP will be released to coincide with the commencement of the revised pursuit policy in late 2017.

The training pack and the revised pursuit policy is scheduled for release in late 2017.