

## Inquest into the death of Liam Cooper Scorsese

Liam Cooper Scorsese died on 25 February 2018 from gunshot wounds to his neck and chest. Police were called to Mr Scorsese's location in response to a triple zero call. Mr Scorsese produced a knife and walked towards police as they retreated backwards on foot. Police shot Mr Scorsese when he was within 2.5m of an officer.

State Coroner Terry Ryan delivered his findings of inquest on 28 May 2021.

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 to the implementation of recommendations can be obtained from the responsible minister named in the response.

### Recommendation 1

The Queensland Police Service consider the viability of purchasing the Bluetooth enabled feature for Axon body-worn cameras.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Queensland Police Service.

On 29 November 2021 the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services responded:

The Queensland Police Service has previously considered the viability of purchasing Bluetooth enabled body-worn cameras by examining the business case for the Axon Signal Sidearm. This Axon Signal Sidearm activates the body worn camera via Bluetooth as an officer draws their firearm and records the interaction from this point in time and does not capture the interaction leading up to the firearm being drawn. As a result, the Queensland Police Service has placed particular emphasis on the policies, training and use of body worn cameras which are regularly reviewed and improved to ensure body worn cameras are activated by officers in accordance with policy.

Training in the use and activation of body worn cameras commences at the academy for recruits. Officers and recruits are trained to activate their body worn cameras as early as possible when responding to incidents or immediately upon arrival at the scene to capture as much evidence as possible. While the Queensland Police Service will identify and examine new technology as it becomes available, the current training and policies in place with respect to activating body worn cameras are considered to be effective.

### Recommendation 2

The Queensland Police Service use the capabilities of the Axon and Evidence.com platform to conduct random audits to ensure officer compliance with policies relating to the use of body-worn cameras.

Response and action: the recommendation is agreed to in part and implementation is complete.

Responsible agency: Queensland Police Service.

On 29 November 2021 the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services responded:

The Queensland Police Service has various processes and procedures in place to ensure officer compliance with body worn camera policies, including:

- utilising Evidence.com to conduct monthly audits to ensure officers are categorising and identifying their body worn camera recordings accurately, in accordance with Section 4.4 of the *Digital electronic recording of interview and evidence (DERIE) manual*
- Queensland Police Service's Ethical Standards Command conducting one-off issue-based inspections of body worn camera compliance in terms of use of force reporting
- Section 1.4.3 of the Queensland Police Service *Operational procedures manual* requiring all assistant commissioners to ensure a program of inspection is conducted annually within the financial year for all station/establishments under their control.

The Queensland Police Service is considering and undertaking consultation with key internal stakeholders regarding random audits of compliance with body-worn camera use policy.

**On 23 June 2022 the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services responded:**

The use and understanding of body worn camera technology has increased since they were first introduced by Queensland Police Service in 2015 which has been reflected in policies, training materials and officer and recruit training. Over the years, audits and inspections have increased through:

- continuous learning and improvement
- officer training and compliance, including:
  - interactive scenario-based training to demonstrate good and poor practices, decision-making skills, de-escalation techniques, taser and tyre deflation device deployments, etc
  - incorporating body worn video into online compulsory training for all police to reinforce good practice and to identify areas of improvement
  - the Operational Skills and Training Section in People Capability Command using recent body-worn video camera footage to reinforce training and provide current learning examples for officers and recruits
- development and improvement of online learning products which encompasses real life footage of policing scenarios
- investigating officer complaints and policing incidents which also informs officer training and policy.

In addition, the Queensland Police Service is in the final stages of implementing an 'after activity review' process that includes the timely review of body-worn video footage with the officers involved as a debriefing, coaching and continuous improvement tool. It is expected the after activity review will be fully implemented in the second half of 2022.

The Queensland Police Service undertakes audits of body-worn video camera footage for various purposes using different techniques, ultimately to ensure officer compliance with policies, and not necessarily for random audits.