

Inquest into the death of Paul Joseph Milward

Mr Milward was a resident at Bundaleer Lodge Nursing Home. He died on 31 August 2015 when he choked on a sandwich. Deputy State Coroner John Lock delivered his findings of inquest on 5 June 2018.

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 coroner made recommendations about aged care and disability care. Queensland Health and the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors are the relevant Queensland Government departments delivering services to these sectors.

While the majority of residential *aged care* providers in Queensland are private providers, Queensland Health is the approved provider for 16 state-operated residential aged care facilities and 33 multi-purpose facilities that may accommodate aged care residents. The Queensland Government will respond to the coroner's recommendation and consider how it could be implemented by Queensland Health in these settings.

In relation to disability services, all eligible clients receiving disability supports under the Disability Services Act will transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) by 30 June 2019. The Queensland Government will remain responsible for the accommodation management of 214 group homes and 11 centred-based respite services. These services are currently delivered by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors through Accommodation Support and Respite Services (AS&RS). AS&RS is a registered NDIS provider with the operation of the service under the relevant quality and safeguarding framework for all NDIS registered providers. The people living in AS&RS will have NDIS packages for their disability supports.

The Queensland Government will respond to the coroner's recommendations and consider how they could be implemented prior to the full implementation of the NDIS and applied to the disability and aged care accommodation services managed by the Queensland Government when the NDIS roll out is completed. Further information relating the implementation of recommendations can be obtained from the responsible minister named in the response.

Information about the federal government's disability services and aged care policy post NDIS transition can be obtained by contacting the National Disability Insurance Agency.

Recommendation 2

All staff involved in the provision of care to residential aged and disability care residents be informed of any material change to a resident's care plan prior to the commencement of their next shift. Whether this be in the form of an oral handover or some other form of information sharing should be a matter for each organization to determine.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is under consideration.

On 1 November 2018 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

Queensland Health is currently reviewing the coroner's recommendation and its application to the 16 aged cared facilities operated by Queensland Health. The outcome of the review team consideration will be reported in 2019.

Recommendation 3

Residential aged and disability care residents' care plans be subject to routine review at least three monthly and sooner if health or other personal circumstances have changed.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is under consideration.

On 1 November 2018 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

Queensland Health is currently reviewing the coroner's recommendation and its application to the 16 aged cared facilities operated by Queensland Health. The outcome of the review team consideration will be reported in 2019.

Recommendation 4

Residential aged and disability care residents with conditions that affect their ability to swallow should undergo regular medical examinations, at intervals as recommended by a medical practitioner, to assess their respiratory health in order to identify and treat aspiration pneumonia.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is under consideration.

On 1 November 2018 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

Queensland Health is currently reviewing the coroner's recommendation and its application to the 16 aged cared facilities operated by Queensland Health. The outcome of the review team consideration will be reported in 2019.