

Inquest into the death of Tyson Lee Jessen

On 9 November 2018, Tyson Jessen was taken into custody by the Queensland Police Service in relation to an arrest warrant issued by Victoria Police. During his arrest Mr Jessen developed cardiac symptoms and was admitted to the Ipswich Hospital for investigation and monitoring. While being guarded by a sole female police officer on 10 November 2018 in the Coronary Care Unit, Mr Jessen attacked the police officer, and in self-defence she shot him three times.

State Coroner Terry Ryan delivered his findings of inquest into the death of Mr Jessen on 26 April 2022.

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 consult with Queensland Health to:

- ensure there is a consistent approach in relation to the deployment of security staff within hospital and health services to assist in the management of patients in police custody
- explore the use of technology to reduce the need for medical transfers of persons in police detention to watchhouses
- consider whether other measures adopted by West Moreton Health could be applied in other hospital and health districts.

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

Responsible agency: Queensland Police Service (lead) and Queensland Health (supporting)

On 7 May 2023 Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, and the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and Leader of the House responded:

The Queensland Police service and Queensland Health are working collaboratively to address the concerns raised by the Coroner regarding the guarding of prisoners while they are undertaking medical treatment in a hospital or other health facility. The Office of Prisoner Health and Wellbeing have agreed to be the support agency to lead this work on behalf of Queensland Health.

As an initial step in this process, the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Health will draft a communique to all health services to share the findings of inquest, the Coroner's recommendations and in particular to highlight the various strategies implemented at West Moreton Health to avert this type of incident from occurring again.

Recommendation 2

The Operational procedures manual (OPM) be reviewed to consider whether section 16.15.1 of the OPM should include an order that the risk assessment be completed, and relevant information recorded both on the QP0856 and in an offender's QPrime cautions.

Response and action: recommendation has been implemented.

Responsible agency: Queensland Police Service.

On 7 May 2023 Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services responded:

The Queensland Police Service State Custody Unit has reviewed and proposed amendments to section 16.15.1 'Medical transfer of a prisoner or person under arrest' of the QPS Operational Procedures Manual to include an order that a risk assessment be completed and recorded on QPRIME for officers escorting and/or guarding prisoners.

On 9 September 2023 Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services responded:

The Queensland Police Service has amended sections 16.15 'Medical information regarding a prisoner' and 15.16.1 'Medical transfer of a prisoner under arrest' of the Operational Procedures Manual to include a requirement for officers to conduct a continual risk assessment and all changes to be recorded on the QP0856 and the offenders QPRIME record. The amendments were published on 9 December 2022.

An instruction has also been emailed statewide to ensure police officers performing hospital guard duty are to conduct appropriate and continual risk assessments of prisoners in health care facilities.