

## 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 complete.

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.

**On 23 September 2024 the Minister for Police and Community Safety, the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for women, and the Commissioner of Queensland Corrective Services responded:**

The Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Health (QH) and Queensland Corrective Service (QCS) have worked collaboratively to implement the Coroner's recommendation.

Since the Inquest Findings were handed down in April 2022, the agencies have delivered the following:

- In 2023, QH disseminated a memorandum to all health services, inclusive of the Coroner's inquest report and a range of measures implemented and resources developed by West Moreton Hospital and Health Services (HHS). The memorandum sought to share the various strategies implemented at West Moreton with other HHSs in Queensland to consider and implement these approaches to prevent this type of incident from occurring.
- Section 16.15.1 'Medical transfer of a prisoner or person under arrest' of the QPS Operational Procedures Manual ensures that a consistent and continual risk assessment is conducted on each detainee that is temporarily in a hospital. Given that QH security model is independently managed by each HHS, QPS policy requires officers to regularly liaise with the local individual HHS Security Officers in relation to the risks associated with each detainee.
- QPS continuing to work closely with QCS to ensure prisoners requiring QCS supervision are handed over to QCS as soon as possible. This is to enable the allocation of QCS officers to meet the assessed risk of the remanded and/or sentenced prisoner.
- QPS, QCS and Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training are working with Department of Justice and Attorney-General to ensure prisoners who pose a lower security risk, who have prolonged health care needs and will be in hospital for extended periods of time may be considered for bail, if on remand, or apply for parole and or exceptional circumstances parole which will be considered by the Queensland Parole Board if in QCS custody.
- Where possible, QH and QCS work together to facilitate inter-hospital transfers of remanded and sentenced prisoners requiring specialised and/or extended hospitalisation to the Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit (PAHSU). The relocation of the prisoner reduces risk to the hospital staff, custodial officers, and the broader community. Importantly it reduces risk to the prisoner as the facility is designed around high security medical services, with appropriately trained medical staff. The admission of prisoners in PAHSU is continually being discussed at a senior level between QCS and QH to ensure the need and demand can be managed.
- Since March 2023, a direct referral pathway to the Metro North Virtual Emergency Department (VED) for persons requiring an escalation of their medical care in the Brisbane, Townsville and Maroochydore Watchhouses has been developed and implemented, with QPS remaining responsible for general medical care within watchhouses as per usual practice. The VED provides Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) clinicians with access to specialist emergency medicine assessment, by telephone or video conferencing.
- This only applies to nursing staff and QPS officers across the state that have access to the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)/VED process. For all other Queensland watchhouses, as well as after 3:30pm when there is no nursing service available in the Brisbane City Watchhouse, QPS personnel can contact QAS Clinical Hub (the Hub) for assistance. The Hub provides an adaptive model of service that ensures a timely, appropriate, and patient-centric ambulance response occurs. Staffed by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of senior paramedics, mental health clinicians and medical officers, the clinical hub coordinates the entry of the patient into the broader healthcare system after a Triple Zero (000) call is received.
- QPS and, QH have, and will continue, to explore possible technology solutions to reduce the need for medical transfers of persons in police detention to watchhouses.

**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.