

Inquest into the death of Liam John Wright and Charles Michael Powell

In July 2006 Liam Wright and Charles Powell came into contact with the mental health service based at the Logan Hospital.

Mr Wright was admitted to Ward 2B and later transferred to the secure acute observation area of the Mental Health Unit based at the hospital. However, on 14 July 2006 a decision was made to place him in a general non-secure mental health unit ward. He absconded soon after he was transferred into the open ward.

About a fortnight later, Mr Powell was assessed at the Emergency Department of Logan Hospital as to whether he should be admitted to the Mental Health Unit. A decision was made not to admit him.

Shortly after these clinical decisions were made, both of these young men took their own lives by jumping in front of a train.

Coroner John Lock delivered his findings of inquest on 20 March 2009.

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.

Further information relating the implementation of recommendations can be obtained from the responsible agency named in the response.

Recommendation 1

The proposal to introduce a fully staffed 25 acute bed mental health ward at Logan Hospital as set out in the Mental Health Plan 2007-2011 be implemented with priority.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Queensland Health.

On 21 January 2016 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

A fully staffed 25 bed acute mental health inpatient ward at Logan Hospital was opened and made operational in March 2015. In conjunction with the additional inpatient mental health beds at Logan, a significant investment has been made to expand contemporary community mental health services to better meet community needs. The pre-existing 20 bed inpatient mental health unit is currently closed for refurbishment and these beds will be progressively commissioned in line with service demand.