

Inquest into the death of Marcia Anne Kathleen Maynard

Marcia Anne Kathleen Maynard died on 3 October 2015, her cause of death was consistent with insulin overdose. The coroner found Ms Maynard took her own life in the context of a number of stressors, most prominent was her anxiousness about having to give evidence in a mandatory death in custody inquest.

Deputy State Coroner John Lock delivered his findings of inquest on 5 September 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 departments named in this response will provide implementation updates until the recommendation is delivered. Further information relating the implementation of recommendations can be obtained from the responsible minister named in the response.

Recommendation 1

The Queensland Government facilitate and fund a program that provides counselling for families as well as witnesses or others who may be involved in and impacted by a coronial investigation and/or inquest, similar to the program currently being facilitated by the Office of Industrial Relations.

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

Responsible agency: Department of Justice and Attorney-General

On 15 May 2019 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice responded:

The department is currently considering the supports required by families and witnesses involved or impacted by a coronial investigation and/or inquest as part of a broader package of reforms associated with a recent performance audit of coronial services but he Queensland Auditor-General.

This includes ensuring sufficient counselling services are available and coordinated across agencies to support families and inquest witnesses.