Inquest into the death of Nicole Sonia Nyholt and Margaret Louisa Clark

On 9 June 2015, the 60 year old driver of a Toyota Landcruiser experienced an epileptic seizure and lost control of his vehicle. The vehicle veered off the main road in the township of Ravenshoe and travelled almost 170 metres across parkland before colliding with a 180kg LPG gas cylinder, triggering an explosion in the Serves You Right Café. The explosion resulted in injuries that caused the deaths of Margaret Clark and Nicole Nyholt.

Coroner Nerida Wilson delivered her findings of inquest on 26 June 2020.

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 inter-working group collaborate to develop an ongoing education and awareness campaign directed to all medical practitioners in the State of Queensland, including hospital based doctors (including rural and remote hospitals) and general practitioners (including rural and remote general practitioners), and that such campaign be specifically developed to educate medical practitioners about the pathways that already exist, for medical practitioners to report patients directly to the state driver licencing authority in circumstances that are consistent with the medical standards provided for in the Austroad assessing fitness to drive guidelines.

Response and action: the recommendation is agreed to. How to implement the recommendation is under consideration.

Responsible agency: Department of Transport and Main Roads (lead), supported by the Department of Health.

On 23 September 2020 the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is working with Queensland Health in relation to the implementation of this recommendation. Department of Transport and Main Roads commenced initial planning on the formation of the inter-agency working group.

Department of Transport and Main Roads will confirm the administration of the proposed inter-agency working group. This includes, but is not limited to, the terms of reference and inviting nominations from the proposed associations. Department of Transport and Main Roads will continue internal consultation regarding the development of the proposed campaign.

**Recommendation 2**
A working group of relevant stakeholders review the current standards and guidelines in respect of continuity of care, discharge, and handovers relevant as between doctors and patients, and doctors and doctors, and hospitals and general practitioners.

Response and action: implementation of the recommendation is under consideration.
Responsible agency: Department of Health.

On 2 October 2020 the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

Queensland Health is currently considering the recommendation.

**Recommendation 3**
Consideration be given to a community campaign targeted at licence holders reminding them of their obligations to immediately report to the Department of Transport and Main Roads any medical events (including seizures and epilepsy) which may impact on their fitness to drive.

Response and action: the recommendation is agreed to. How the recommendation will be implemented is under consideration.

Responsible agency: Department of Transport and Main Roads.

On 23 September 2020 the Minister for Transport and Main Roads responded:

The Department of Transport and Main Roads commenced planning activities to develop a road safety campaign to address this recommendation.

The department will undertake further planning and development work, including internal consultation regarding this initiative. The department intends on leveraging road safety partnerships to extend the reach of any proposed campaign.

**On 31 March 2021 the Minister for Transport and Main Roads responded:**

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is continuing planning and development activities regarding the proposed road safety campaign, in collaboration with road safety partners.

A funding source is to be identified to ensure that the proposed campaign will reach the target audience and have the desired impact.