

Inquest into the death of Pasquale Rosario Giorgio

Pasquale Roasario Giorgio died from ischaemic cardiomyopathy following a period of restraint by police officers.

Deputy State Coroner John Lock delivered his findings of inquest on 11 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

Education specialists from both Queensland Police Service and Queensland Ambulance Service jointly review the circumstances of Mr Giorgio's death and identify the most appropriate means for enhancing the ability of police officers to respond more effectively to similar circumstances in the future.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Queensland Police Service (lead) supported by Queensland Health.

On 2 May 2019 the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

The Queensland Ambulance Services assisted in the review of Queensland Police Service's education packages to ensure they meet the emerging needs of officers to recognise individuals suffering an acute clinical deterioration and the actions to take. Education specialists from both agencies met and agreed that under oversight of the Queensland Ambulance Services medical director, the education specialists will collaborate to develop a suitable education package.

The Queensland Police Service will also incorporate early identification of abnormal breathing and early warning signs into the 2019-20 annual operational skills online training and the revised elements of the tactical first aid training for all police officers.

On 26 November 2019 the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

The Queensland Police Service Operational Skills Section is continuing to collaborate with the Queensland Ambulance Service to implement the coroner's recommendation.

The Queensland Police Service incorporated specific training on the identification and management of a sudden collapse of persons in police custody into the operational skills and tactics training 2019-20 curriculum.

It is expected 11,500 police will have undertaken this training by 30 June 2020. Stakeholder consultation was undertaken with qualified facilitators across the QPS in late 2019 to ensure the training's effectiveness and operational relevance. The results of the stakeholder consultation were positive.

On 3 June 2020 the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services responded:

Training was incorporated into the Queensland Police Service Operational Skills and Tactics Training 2019-20 curriculum and was completed by more than 11,000 police officers as at 30 June 2020.

Lessons learnt from Pasquale Giorgio's death were incorporated into elements of Queensland Police Service's tactical first aid training which has been very successful in enhancing the ability of police officers to respond more effectively to these circumstances.

An ongoing working relationship between Queensland Police Service and Queensland Ambulance Service education specialists was formed to ensure lessons learnt continue to influence training and prepare police officers and Queensland Ambulance Service paramedics to co-respond effectively to persons in need.

Recommendation 2

The first aid capability of Queensland Police Service vehicles be reviewed to ensure they carry basic equipment such as mouth to face masks.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Queensland Police Service

On 2 May 2019 the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective services responded:

The first aid capability of Queensland Police Service vehicles is currently under review. A number of recommendations are being considered including replacing the disposable face shields, currently issued to each police vehicle, with mouth-to-face resuscitation masks with filters.

On 26 November 2019 the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services responded:

The Queensland Police Service reviewed the service's first aid policy and the existing requirements in place are satisfactory.

The policy requires all service vehicles to carry first aid kits, including disposable face shields which have a one-way filter valve and offer the same protection as mouth to face masks.