

## Recommendation Response from Department of Health Biannual Report – August 2023

Quoc Xuan TRAN died, aged 36 years, on or about 10 April 2019 by immersion (drowning) in the waters near Heirisson Island, East Perth. He was subject to a Community Treatment Order (CTO) under the *MHA* at the time for treatment of his schizoaffective disorder. Mr Tran presented to Royal Perth Hospital on 8 April 2019 seeking assistance with accommodation. He was seen by a Homeless Health Care Team worker who provided information about emergency accommodation options. Two days later, his body was located floating in the Swan River by a member of public. Clothing and personal effects belonging to him were found 400 metres away on Heirisson Island. Police concluded there was no evidence of suspicious activity.

The coroner recommended that the health service lobby the Mental Health Commission (MHC) to use its best endeavours to ensure that the planned Secure Extended Care Units (SECU) and the Community Care Units (CCU) are operational as soon as practicable.

The CRC reviewed these findings and discussion included advice from EMHS that the CCU had opened and that at the time of the meeting, a SECU was in the process of opening. Members recognised that the issues arising in this case were also evident in other HSPs and agreed that advice about mental health service planning would be sought. Enquiries were made with the relevant stakeholders.

Given the need and benefit that further development of transitional housing services throughout WA to support consumer recovery, EMHS wrote to the MHC, whilst also acknowledging that since this death has occurred the MHC has invested in the development of the transitional care unit Bidi Wungen Kaat Centre. Additionally, EMHS has worked cooperatively with the Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensic Taskforce (GRAFT) to establish the need for SECU beds across the EMHS catchment and the suitable size and locations for the establishment of these units.

NMHS has acknowledged that the Cabinet-appointed GRAFT has presented the Government of WA with a clear picture of what is needed to rebalance the public mental health system through to 2031/32, which includes the establishment of SECUs and CCUs throughout the state of WA. NMHS notes that these services are an important component of an integrated pathway of care for mental health consumers, to support them in successfully transitioning to community living. However, they are not an appropriate option for people requiring accommodation due to homelessness, and additional investment in a range of services is required to ensure people experiencing homelessness can access emergency and long-term accommodation.

SMHS' Mental Health Strategy Roadmap (2019) includes, as one of eight core components, the establishment and expansion of "Accommodation based services for rehabilitation, recovery and support". SMHS' goal is to establish these types of services to meet population demand, and with a focus on functional gains and transition towards greater independence. A key strategy for this is identifying and actioning opportunities to increase capacity in existing accommodation-based services, which includes CCUs. Of note is that the first CCU in WA was

established in SMHS in November 2022. This service is run by Richmond Wellbeing with SMHS funding to provide the clinical component of the CCU. SMHS is participating in the MHC's development of the SECU model through representation on the GRAFT and through the Mental Health Leads Sub-Committee which is kept informed of progress.

SMHS continues to advocate with the MHC for models of care and co-commissioning partnerships with the WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for the expansion of accommodation-based services with a recovery focus for adults with severe and persistent mental health issues and complex needs.

There is no plan to establish SECUs or CCUs within CAHS as these types of facilities are not relevant to children under 18 years of age.

The '*WACHS Strategy, Planning and Service Development Policy*' and the '*WACHS Clinical Service Planning Policy*' outline the approach to ensure alignment of all planning and service delivery activities with WACHS' strategic documents, WA Health and broader government priorities, as well as WACHS clinical models and frameworks. The policies outline processes and governance mechanisms for escalation of requests for facility funding and planning to government and community partners where indicated, including lobbying for the establishment of services such as SECUs and CCUs. WACHS acknowledges that community-based residential and psychosocial support services, along with accommodation in general, have been identified as deficits in rural and remote communities across WA, though the specific options suggested, such as SECU and CCU services, will not be the only solutions for all communities and populations across WA.

The MHC informed the CLU in May 2023 that it has simplified the naming conventions of these units. SECUs are now known as Secure Recovery and Rehabilitation Units (SRRUs), and CCUs and Transition Care Units (TCUs) are now known as Community Recovery and Rehabilitation Units (CRRUs). Though, the operating names of the existing services may continue to be SECU/CCU/TCU.

The MHC advised the CLU about:

- a 20-bed facility in Orelia known as Living Well – Mental Health Community Care Unit. The service is funded by the MHC and is delivered in partnership by Richmond Wellbeing and the SMHS. The CRRU initially commenced as a day program in July 2022 and the residential services commenced in November 2022.
- The Bidi Wungen Kaat Centre is a 40-bed adult residential service for mental health consumers located in St James, delivered by the EMHS since late 2022. Known as the St James TCU, this CRRU provides contemporary staged recovery support for people experiencing mental health issues, offering transitional care between the hospital setting and community living.
- The EMHS' John Milne Centre is being rebuilt at Bentley Hospital and will be a contemporary 12-bed SRRU.

The GRAFT was appointed by Cabinet in January 2021 to oversee the planning for the future of the Graylands Hospital and Selby Older Mental Health sites and services. Based on robust

demand modelling to 2031-32, GRAFT has provided Government with a clear picture of what inpatient and community bed-based services are needed to rebalance the mental health system. This includes a mix of SRRUs, CRRUs and Forensic CRRUs.

In relation to lobbying the MHC for planned SECUs (now SRRUs) and CCUs (now CRRUs) to be operation as soon as practical, CRC members agreed that the coroner's recommendation has been considered actioned and completed.