



**MINISTER FOR POLICE; CORRECTIVE SERVICES; DEFENCE INDUSTRY;
VETERANS ISSUES**

Our Ref: 70-37589

Ms Anna MacDonald
Acting Manager Listings
Office of the State Coroner
Level 10, Central Law Courts
501 Hay Street
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms MacDonald

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 July 2023 regarding the Inquest into the death of Mr Roderick Malcolm Narrier.

As you are aware, in his findings, State Coroner Urquhart made three recommendations. Two recommendations addressed the wording within the Use of Force training material. The remaining recommendation dealt with the provision of fast strap leg restraints to all operational police officers.

An update regarding action taken by the WA Police Force in regard to the three recommendations can be found below:

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

“The following sentence currently appears in the WAPF Operational Safety and Tactics Training Unit Empty Hand Tactics and Handcuffing Training Manuals with respect to the use of a restraint of a subject in the prone position by police:

To reduce the danger of positional asphyxia to a subject in the prone position, that sentence should be replaced with the following:

“The restraint of a subject in the prone position should always avoid the application of downward force directly to the subject’s back, chest or stomach. If such an application of downward force is required, it should only be used for the purpose of applying handcuffs. It should immediately cease once police have gained control of the subject.”

The WA Police Force has accepted this recommendation and has implemented changes to the respective policy guideline.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

“The WAPF should ensure that training in relation to the indicators of positional asphyxia reinforces that evidence of struggling and/or rapidly escalating body temperature by the restrained person may be due to positional asphyxia and not excited delirium.”

The WA Police Force has accepted this recommendation and has implemented changes to the respective policy guideline.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3

“As soon as practicable, the WAPF should consider making fast strap leg restraints available to operational police officers and should provide training as to the appropriate use of these devices.”

The WA Police Force has agreed to the implementation of Fast Strap Leg Restraints and are progressing agency wide training and procurement.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Yours sincerely

**HON PAUL PAPALIA CSC MLA
MINISTER FOR POLICE**

09 AUG 2023