

Recommendation Response from Department of Health Biannual Report – February 2018

Daniel James HALL

The Prescription Shopping coronial inquest included the review of the deaths of three men: Shayne Andrew Berry, Daniel James Hall and Adrian Marcus Westlund. Each death occurred in circumstances of the deceased's drug seeking behaviours.

The Department of Health's Coronial Review Committee reviewed these findings and directed the recommendations to the appropriate stakeholders for review and response.

The Department of Health had commenced the procurement phase for a project to develop the Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs (ERRCD) system. Currently, the WA Department of Health is negotiating with the Commonwealth on specifications for WA changes and is awaiting the outcome of the planned national release of the uplifted ERRCD program.

The *Medicines and Poisons Act 2014* replaced the *Poisons Act 1964* on 30 January 2017. The current "drug addict register" held under the *Health Act 1911* will transition to a new Schedule 8 record of dependent persons under the *Medicines and Poisons Act*. The Act makes provisions for the sharing of this information to health practitioners for patients under their care.

Consultation over the *Medicines and Poisons Regulations 2016* did not identify strong practitioner opinion for specific Schedule 4 drugs to be reportable. The inclusion of specific drugs will be technically feasible following implementation of the new electronic system.

Assessment of benzodiazepine usage is now routinely required as part of entry for patients entering the CPOP program. Patients will not be approved over a certain limit and are instead referred to Next Step for specialist support. Clauses for oversupplied persons came into effect with the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2014* on 30 January 2017.

Of the 13 recommendations made by the coroner, five have been duly considered and deemed completed or closed; two have been deemed to be out of scope for WA Health; and, six are ongoing at the time of this report. Progress will be updated in the next report.