

RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM CASUARINA INQUESTS

INQUEST INTO THE 5 DEATHS IN CASUARINA PRISON: MERVYN KENNETH DOUGLAS BELL; BEVAN STANLEY CAMERON; BRIAN ROBERT HONEYWOOD; JS (NAME SUBJECT TO SUPPRESSION ORDER) AND AUBREY ANTHONY SHANNON WALLAM

Findings Delivered on 22 May 2019

Recommendation 1:

The Department should take urgent steps to recruit additional Prison Counselling Service (PCS) and mental health staff for Casuarina Prison and more broadly, should consider the appropriate level of PCS and mental health staff for prisons across the State.

Responsible Person: CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Management Comment: The Department fully supports this recommendation and understands the high priority for increasing the number of PCS and mental health staff, not only for Casuarina Prison but more broadly across the Estate. We are actively preparing a business case and a strong model of care for patients with severe and persistent mental illness to increase the FTE for PCS and MH staff in the new builds at Casuarina and the growing muster across the estate.

Interim approval has been given to increase PCS at Hakea and Casuarina.

Completion Date: 31 December 2019

Recommendation 2:

The Department should increase the number of three point and fully ligature-minimised cells available at Casuarina Prison without delay. Priority should be given to those cells routinely used to house vulnerable prisoners (e.g.: the orientation cells in unit 5). In addition to increasing the number of ligature-minimised cells at Casuarina Prison, the Department should review whether the light fitting covers currently used in all cells at Casuarina Prison (and which are regarded as suitable for use in ligature-minimised cells) are fit for purpose.

Responsible Person: CORPORATE SERVICES

Management Comment: The Department has completed full ligature minimisation in all of C Wing Unit 1 at Casuarina Prison A total of 13 Cells. Current approved cell light covers are hardened polycarbonate specifically designed for prison cells and utilised throughout Australia and the large majority of WA Prisons. The light cover is engineered to withstand 'robust' conditions, however no cover can withstand prolonged attack to failure.

Completion Date: 31 December 2019

Recommendation 3:

In order to better manage prisoners and thereby enhance security at Casuarina Prison, the Department should, without delay, take all necessary steps to ensure that PCS and Prison Health Service staff have reciprocal access to prisoner

information stored in the EcHO computer system and the PCS module of the Total Offender Management Solutions system respectively.

Responsible Person: CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Management Comment: PCS currently distributes notes of prisoners who are at risk of self-harm or suicide, or who are vulnerable within the prison to health and custodial staff. The Department's Health Service has sought additional licences for EcHO (Electronic Health Online) to enable PCS staff to access, read and write appropriate clinical documentation for our patients requiring intervention and to improve case management for by all prison health staff.

Completion Date: 31 December 2019

Recommendation 4:

The Department should consider introducing a "triage" system into prisons where all prisoners who have a known history of self-harm and/or suicide attempts are reviewed by a mental health professional within 24 hours of being received into prison. Consideration should be given to the use of video-conferencing facilities for regional prisons where mental health staff are unavailable.

Responsible Person: CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Management Comment: All prisoners are assessed by a primary health care nurse upon reception into prison and are subsequently referred to mental health and PCS staff if assessed at risk for self-harm or suicide ideation. PCS staff will be introducing an evidenced based risk assessment screening tool for both self-harm and suicidality and are in the process of education and implementation for staff. This tool is currently utilised within correctional services internationally.

Completion Date: 31 December 2019

Recommendation 5:

The Department should consult with an expert in the field of trauma informed custodial care (TICC) to determine a process for incorporating the principles of TICC into its management of prisoners at Casuarina Prison.

Responsible Person: CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Management Comment: Specialist Psychological Services (SPS) provides psychological assessment, intervention and consultation services to metropolitan public prisons to assist with the management of prisoners with high risk and complex needs. This can involve psychological assessment to inform management of prisoners who present as a harm to themselves or others, where previous attempts to manage risk has not been successful. Services also involve the development of management plans and strategies to engage the offender in prosocial and healthy behaviours. SPS Psychologists can work with custodial and prison staff to provide information, training and consultation services regarding the behaviour of prisoners who present with complex needs, including working with prisoners with various mental health, cognitive and personality needs.

At the request of prison management SPS can supplement training for officers in relation to trauma informed custodial care, and the features of mental health and

personality disorders relevant to assisting with management of these offenders. In consideration of resources, it is suggested that training packages be sourced for such training and that SPS Psychologists supplement this training via reinforcement of learning through consultation.

Completion Date: Existing Practice

Recommendation 6:

The Department should consult with an expert in the field of mental health with a view to providing training to all staff on the features of personality disorders and common mental disorders and strategies to more effectively manage prisoners with these conditions.

Responsible Person: CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Management Comment: The Department has a Consultant Psychiatrist employed at Hakea Prison and has consulted with the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist, for advice regarding a suitably qualified external Psychiatrist specifically experienced in the features of personality disorders, to assist with developing strategies to more effectively manage prisoners with these conditions.

Refer also to the Management Comment under Recommendation 5 above in relation to the services provided by Specialist Psychological Services.

Completion Date: 30 September 2019

Recommendation 7:

The Department should consider further enhancing its Gatekeeper training program to ensure that it is primarily focussed on risk in the custodial setting. Consideration should also be given to including additional guidance for relevant custodial staff (e.g.: reception officers) on conducting self-harm and suicide risk assessments. Gatekeeper refresher training should be conducted for all staff on a regular basis.

Responsible Person: CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Management Comment: The Suicide Prevention - Gatekeeper training program is a generic program developed by the Ministerial Council of Suicide Prevention. It is designed to cover the needs of a range of professionals and paraprofessionals e.g. nurse, teachers or prison officers who have direct contact and management of offenders. The focus of the two day course is to develop a deeper understanding and knowledge of suicidal behaviour, the skills and confidence in identifying, assessing risk and intervening with suicidal people. In the custodial setting, the program is co-delivered by a clinician and a non-clinician (Custodial Officer) who contextualises to the custodial environment via scenarios and relevant examples to the work place as required. The program does not cover specific procedures/processes such as reception procedures. Outside of the Entry Level Training Program (ELTP) for new Prison officers, the delivery the Suicide Prevention - Gatekeeper training is not currently funded and the refresher requirements are yet to be determined. The ELTP trains participants in the "At Risk Management System", as well as Reception Procedures and in taking of new offenders. Particular focus is placed on the importance of conducting reception

"intake risk assessments". The Total Offender Management System (TOMS) training covers how to access offender alerts and how to conduct checks on deactivated alerts. Every alert within any status - including remand and historical sentences is always permanently recorded on TOMS. At the point of reception all of the previous history and de-activated alerts are accessible to staff through the individual prisoner's TOMS profile. The only exclusion is when receiving officers do not check for an existing TOMS ID number to correspond with the entry point warrant. TOMS and Reception Procedures training is available through the local Satellite Trainer on a needs basis.

Completion Date: 31 December 2019

Recommendation 8:

The Department should consider amending Policy Directive 36 – Communication so that where practicable, there is a positive obligation on custodial staff to advise a prisoner when changes are made to that prisoner's Prison Telephone System account.

Responsible Person: CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Management Comment:

Policy Directive 36 – Communications (PD36) is being reviewed as part of the Custodial Operational Policies and Procedures (COPPs) project. The objective of the COPPs project is to review and update all of the custodial operating policies procedures (e.g. Adult Custodial Rules, Policy Directives). The review will consider legislation, international standards, recommendations from external agencies and safety and security impacts. It is envisaged the revised PD36 (COPP7.1 – Prisoner Communication) will include a positive obligation to staff to advise prisoners of any changes to their Prison Telephone System (PTS) account. Advising prisoners of changes to their PTS should be standard practice across all prisons. The review of Policy Directive 36 – Communications and creation of COPP 7.1 – Prisoner Communications is due to commence on 31 July 2019.

Completion Date: 31 December 2019