



**MINISTER FOR POLICE; CORRECTIVE SERVICES; RACING AND GAMING;
DEFENCE INDUSTRY; VETERANS ISSUES**

Our Reference: 70-41876

Ms Ros Fogliani
State Coroner of Western Australia
Office of the State Coroner

Email: coroner@justice.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Fogliani

Thank you for the correspondence from your Office dated 22 February 2024 requesting advice on proposed actions following your Findings into the death of Mr Iain Campbell Buchanan.

I advise that the Department of Justice (the Department) is undertaking a number of proposed actions in response to your recommendations, with responses and proposed actions being outlined in **Attachment 1**.

I trust this information is of assistance. I accept your proposal to add details to this letter to the Coroner's Court website.

Yours sincerely

**HON PAUL PAPALIA CSC MLA
MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES**

09 MAY 2024

The Department of Justice (WA) responses and proposed actions to recommendations following the State Coroner's findings from the inquest into the death of Iain Campbell Buchanan

Recommendation 1: *That the Department of Justice develop clear and consistent training for prison officers in respect of the management of aggressive behaviour by prisoners, including how to respond to physical altercations between prisoners in accordance with governing legislation, policies and procedure.*

The Department supports this recommendation. All new prison officers completing the Entry Level Training Program (ELTP) at the Corrective Services Academy undertake extensive training and assessment in managing aggressive behaviour by prisoners, de-escalation techniques, and responding to incidents involving physical altercations.

The following units are part of the Certificate III in Correctional Practice that all new prison officers complete whilst at the Academy and once transitioned to their workplace under probation. All the below units include training and information that assist participants in managing aggressive prisoners and responding to physical altercations. Each of the units have practical and written / theory assessments that are designed to address the performance requirements of each unit.

- a) Promote Cooperative behaviour – this unit describes the skills and knowledge required to monitor offender behaviour, prevent, and manage conflict and respond to unacceptable behaviour. Performance criteria within this unit that participants must meet to be assessed as competent includes, monitoring behaviour, preventing, and managing conflict and responding to unacceptable behaviour.
- b) Control incidents that jeopardise safety and security – this unit describes the skills and knowledge required to respond to and contain incidents that jeopardise safety and security. Performance criteria within this unit that participants must meet to be assessed as competent includes, responding to incidents and containing incidents.
- c) Supervise Offenders - This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to monitor the security, behaviour, needs, and concerns of offenders and outlines the skills required to supervise offenders with diverse needs. Performance criteria within this unit that participants must meet to be assessed as competent include monitoring security and behaviour, responding to needs and concerns, and supervising offenders with diverse needs.
- d) Communicate Effectively – this unit describes the skills and knowledge required to exchange information verbally and in writing for specific purposes. It includes adapting communication styles to people and situations, working effectively with groups and maintaining security of information. Performance criteria within this unit that participants must meet to be assessed as competent includes, selecting times of interactions, selecting environments conducive to effective communication, adjusting communication styles to suit the audience and using communication strategies to resolve the issues and problems.