



3 DECEMBER 2018

Our Ref: 63-08621

RECEIVED

Ms Evelyn Vicker
Deputy State Coroner
Coroner's Court of Western Australia
Level 10, Central Law Courts
501 Hay Street
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Vicker

Thank you for your letter regarding the Inquest into the death of Scott Andrew Blanchard.

The Western Australia Police Force has reviewed and considered the recommendation in respect to this matter.

WA Police Health and Welfare Division use the police intranet to emphasise to serving members that their families should be made aware of the availability of its services. The development of a family internet would be beneficial provided there was a way to ensure families were made aware of available services.

The WA Police Force acknowledges the need for greater awareness by employees' families about the health and welfare services available to them.

Accordingly, in 2018 the WA Police Force undertook consultation with employees and their families to assess the level of awareness about the available welfare services and preferred method of contact. The consultation indicated there is a high level of interest in accessing such information and services and the preferred method of communication is online.

The WA Police Force is progressing a whole of agency strategy to raise the profile and enhance workforce wellbeing. As part of this agency wide approach, a communication plan is being developed. This plan aims to ensure consistent messaging, the use of a broader range of communication methods and the introduction of measures to accurately assess impact and understanding.

In response to the inquest recommendation, the WA Police Force is establishing a project team within the Health Welfare and Safety Division. The project team will develop a family website to reinforce the key messages about how to seek advice, information and support, specifically in relation to psychological wellbeing. The website launch is planned for the end of the first quarter of 2019, with the initial communication with employee's family members prior to this.

The WA Police Force Human Resources Directorate will also establish an informal event to be held shortly before police recruits graduate. Family members will be invited

to this event, with a view to reinforce the support services that are available and the ways family support can be accessed.

The WA Police Force also advise investigations will be conducted into the option to periodically engage directly with family members at regional and district events. This will further foster awareness of the support available including any new services as they are developed.

Furthermore, the WA Police Force plans to utilise other communication tools to encourage employees to inform their families about the support available. This includes messaging on the Human Resources intranet page reminding employees and their families about the importance of seeking help, the development of a brochure to promote the management of psychological wellbeing, illness and injury and a regular article in the weekly *From the Line* internal publication.

I trust this information regarding action in relation to the recommendation is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**HON MICHELLE ROBERTS BA DipEd MLA
MINISTER FOR POLICE; ROAD SAFETY**

29 NOV 2018