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## Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services

Our Ref: 65-00297

PERTH CORONERS COURT

20 JUN 2017

RECEIVED

Ms Sarah Linton  
Coroner  
Coroner's Court of Western Australia  
Level 10, Central Law Courts  
501 Hay Street  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Coroner Linton

Thank you for letter dated 4 April 2017 from Dawn Wright, Manager of Listings regarding your findings into the circumstances surrounding the death of former prisoner Jayden Stafford Bennell.

As requested, I am providing advice on any actions that have been taken by the Department of Corrective Services (The Department) as a result of your findings and recommendations.

As you are aware, mental health services are provided by the Department and the Department of Health's Statewide Forensic Mental Health Service (the Statewide Service). Services include an in-reach service to metropolitan public prisons and an inpatient service at the Graylands Hospital Frankland Unit.

The Department and the Statewide Service are working together to improve the quality and continuity of care provided to prisoners. In late 2016, the Statewide Service provided additional resources to increase the number of hours per week its Consultation Liaison Service operates at metropolitan public prisons. This service, based on clinical needs assessment, involves visiting psychiatrists attending nominated prisons, as agreed between the Statewide Service and the Department.

The psychiatrists collaborate with the co-morbidity and transition in-reach teams to assist in the early identification, early intervention, assessment, treatment and monitoring of prisoners.

In January 2017, the Statewide Service implemented a Transition Service, commissioned by the Mental Health Commission, to attend nominated prisons as agreed between the Department and the Department of Health. This service provides pre-release planning and case management to prisoners, based on a needs assessment, to ensure early integration, continuity of care and safe transition into the community.

The Department is currently reviewing documentation and procedures for prison mental health services, including the State-wide Standardised Clinical Documentation forms in the Department of Health's *Triage to Discharge Guidelines*, which when implemented, will align the Department's procedures with the Stokes Review and the Department of Health procedures.

The Department is also trialling an electronic case management system aimed at ensuring that a prison is automatically notified of prisoners with mental health issues who are due to be received from another prison. It also flags where interventions have been scheduled by the sending prison, so that they can be rescheduled at the receiving prison.

The review and funding of mental health services in Western Australia in line with the Stokes Review is managed by the Mental Health Commission. In March 2017, the Department referred the Coroner's recommendation to the Mental Health Commission and the Department of Health for consideration by the Department of Health's State Coronial Review Committee.

Should you require any further information, please contact me.

Once again, thank you for raising this important matter with me.

Yours sincerely

**HON FRANCIS LOGAN MLA**  
**MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES; CORRECTIVE SERVICES**

21 JUN 2017