



16 MAR 2022

RECEIVED

**Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA  
Minister for Health; Mental Health**

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Our ref: 76-12242

Ms Dawn Wright  
Manager Listings  
Office of the State Coroner  
501 Hay Street  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Wright

Thank you for your letter of 19 November 2022 regarding the Inquest into the tragic death of Mr Scott William Martin, and the recommendations contained within the Coroner's Findings.

I was troubled by the issues identified through the inquest into the death of Mr Martin, and welcome the recommendations to improve the outcomes in similar situations. Please find my responses below to Coroner Urquhart's Recommendations.

**Recommendation No.1**

*That the Mental Health Co-Response continue to be funded, and that consideration be given to providing the Western Australia Police Force and the Western Australia Mental Health Commission with additional, external funding in order to support expansion of the programme in a way that meets demand.*

**Response:**

As part of the 2021 Election Commitment, additional funding has been allocated to expand the current Mental Health Co-Response (MHCR) program, by increasing the metropolitan capacity to seven days per week in eight locations, and the addition of two regional teams.

**Recommendation No. 2**

*That consideration be given to providing the Western Australia Police Force and the Western Australia Mental Health Commission with additional, external funding in order to support the expansion of the Mental Health Co-Response in metropolitan areas of Perth.*

**Response:**

The MHCR expansion will include additional metropolitan mobile teams and extra training for Police Officers and Mental Health Practitioners, particularly around trauma informed care. Several elements are also expanded including, the provision of additional mental health and alcohol and other drug support at the Perth Watch House, an increase in positions at the Police Operations Centre. The Metropolitan and Southwest expansion will commence in July 2022.

**Recommendation No. 3**

*That work continue on the planning of the Mental Health Co-Response in regional areas of the State, and consideration be given to providing the Western Australia Police Force and the Western Australia Mental Health Commission with additional, external funding in order to support the expansion of the Mental Health Co-Response into regional areas.*

**Response:**

The Regional expansion of MHCR commenced in September 2021 in Geraldton. The expansion will continue into the remote areas of the Midwest. This will be followed by the establishment of the Bunbury team in July 2022.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincere regards

HON AMBER-JADE SANDERSON MLA  
**MINISTER FOR HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH**

- 9 MAR 2022