



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

Our Reference: 70-45825

Ms Dawn Wright
Manager Listings
Office of the State Coroner

Email: coroner@justice.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Wright

Thank you for your correspondence dated 28 October 2024 requesting advice on proposed actions following Coroner Linton's findings into the death in custody of Mr Matthew Leach.

I advise that the Department of Justice is taking proposed action in response to the two recommendations, and I attach a progress update to enable visibility of the efforts taken to implement the recommendations to date.

I accept your proposal to add this letter to the Coroner's Court Website.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

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

Attachment: Progress Update

05 DEC 2024

ATTACHMENT ONE

Department Response to Recommendation 1:

The Department appreciates the coroner's support regarding formal submissions to Government for additional funding to further manage and provide treatment to prisoners with health and mental health needs.

The Department will continue to engage with other agencies to reinforce a requirement for funding and outlining recommendations that specify the allocation of additional funding to enhance health and mental health services at Hakea Prison and across the custodial estate.

Department Response to Recommendation 2:

The Department supports in principle an alternative model of mental health care such as what is currently in operation in Queensland, acknowledging prisoners who have a mental health illness requiring involuntary treatment under the *Mental Health Act 2014*, should be sent to an appropriate facility for treatment. However, it should be noted that there currently isn't a specific 'Queensland model of care', rather several approaches adopted in Queensland for the provision of Mental Health care.

The Department's Health Services maintains the position that a review of current practices is required, and a potential new model of care developed. However, it is noted that the implementation of a new model of care is dependent on funding and therefore requires support from Government as well as external agencies.

In terms of future planning, Department representatives regularly consult with stakeholders from the Department of Health and State Forensic Mental Health service pertaining to the provision of health and mental health services to prisoners and the appropriate model of care and will continue to work with these agencies to review and monitor the health and mental health service delivery to prisoners across the custodial estate.