

Recommendation Response from Department of Health Biannual Report – February 2025

Phillip Benjamin Veltman died, aged 49 years, from an unascertained cause. He was an involuntary inpatient in the locked ward at Bentley Mental Health Services (BMHS) at the time. He had a long history of mental illness and treatment going back to his twenties and significant physical health comorbidities. His most recent diagnosis was schizoaffective disorder. The morning after Mr Veltman was admitted to BMHS he was noted to be asleep and attempts to wake him up for physical observations throughout the day were unsuccessful. He was noted to be snoring very loudly as he slept. There was an attempt made by medical staff to wake Mr Veltman for review in the early afternoon. He was found to be pale, not breathing and unresponsive. Resuscitation attempts were unsuccessful.

The coroner made one recommendation relating to funding for technology which enables patient observations to be taken remotely to be developed and made available through a secure and confidential system.

The CRC reviewed these findings and members were advised of the intention to make a submission for funding to support the 'Sensibles' project.

EMHS have completed a project proposal and grant application for the current round of Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) funding opportunities. The delay has been waiting for a FHRI round for which the project is eligible, none of the programs released in the latter half of 2024 being appropriate. This grant is going to the FHRI Innovative Solutions – Precision Health program before the application closing date.

An update on the outcome of the funding application will be provided in the next biannual progress report. Members acknowledge the independence of the FHRI in funding decisions.