

## Recommendation Response from Department of Health Biannual Report – February 2025

Lindsay Woods died, aged 48 years, as a result of metastatic high-grade neuroendocrine carcinoma. Mr Woods was found unfit to stand trial in relation to criminal charges due to his mental health issues and he was placed on a custody order under the *Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996 (WA)*. The Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board determined that he was to be detained at the Frankland Centre, where he could receive appropriate treatment. The Public Advocate was appointed as limited guardian. There were initially no Aboriginal Liaison Officers (ALOs) available to assist with locating family or friends. When he was diagnosed with metastatic high-grade neuroendocrine carcinoma Mr Woods declined to have active treatment and he was treated palliatively. Family members were located and were able to visit him before his death.

The coroner made one recommendation seeking to ensure sufficient Aboriginal Liaison Officers (ALOs) were employed to service the Frankland Centre to enhance the care and treatment provided to Aboriginal patients.

The CRC reviewed these findings and members noted that, while ALOs are not directly employed by State Forensics, ALOs are available through the mental health team. NMHS have advised that, while not directly employed by the State Forensics Mental Health Service (SFMHS), ALOs are employed and available through the ALO Mental Health team. That team is established at 4 full time equivalent (FTE) ALOs, with an additional 1 FTE Coordinator.

As part of the 2025-26 financial year Criminal Law Mental Impairment (CLMI) proposed workforce, SFMHS is looking at including an Aboriginal Mental Health Worker for the admitted services – with one additional FTE Aboriginal Mental Health Worker for the Community team as well. The NMHS is also proposing a Peer Worker in both inpatients and community services (2 FTE in total).

Inclusion of dedicated Aboriginal workforce is included in all proposed future workforce profiles as part of Graylands Reconfiguration and Forensics Project (GRAFP).

On the understanding that there are plans to increase the existing Aboriginal workforce servicing SFMHS, CRC members agreed to close the recommendation. No further updates will be provided in the next biannual report.