



**MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES; CORRECTIVE SERVICES;
DEFENCE INDUSTRIES; VETERANS; RACING AND GAMING**

Our Reference: 70-53606

Mr Richard Hurley
A/Manager Listings
Coroner's Court of Western Australia
Level 10, Central Law Courts
501 Hay Street
PERTH WA 6000

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Hurley

Thank you for your correspondence dated 11 May 2026 requesting advice on proposed actions in response to Coroner Jenkin's findings into the death in custody of Mr Corey Desmond Devree (Mr Devree).

The Department of Justice (the Department) treats deaths in custody very seriously and places great importance on recommendations made by the Coroner. Each recommendation is carefully considered to assist in identifying targeted solutions to address the intent of recommendations. I confirm that the Department is actively taking steps to address the four recommendations made in the Inquest into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Devree. For your reference, I have attached progress update detailing the Department's efforts to implement the recommendations to date.

The Department has initiated several suicide prevention strategies to better manage at-risk and vulnerable prisoners. These have taken effect through the establishment of a dedicated suicide prevention project that aims to improve the safety and wellbeing of these prisoners; reduce incidents of suicide and self-harm; and improve the Department's focus on prevention and safer custody in line with the State's Suicide Prevention Strategy.

I also acknowledge and accept your proposal to publish this letter on the Coroner's Court Website and your Annual Report.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



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

Attachment One

Recommendation 1

In order to better manage prisoners and thereby enhance security at Bunbury Regional Prison, the Department of Justice (the Department) should, without delay, take all necessary steps to reduce the number of outstanding treatment assessments.

The Department should consider measures including, but not limited to:

- a. Streamlining the assessment process; and
- b. Placing greater reliance on external reports from psychiatrists, psychologists (where available) when assessing a prisoner's treatment needs; and
- c. Engaging additional psychologists (whether on a full-time, part-time, or contract basis) to conduct treatment assessments.

Department's Response:

- a. This recommendation is supported. The Department is currently deploying a range of strategies to streamline the assessment process whilst ensuring clinical integrity is maintained. An essential component of these strategies is the evaluation of their impact on efficiency and treatment demand.
- b. This recommendation is not supported. The Department's current practice in terms of utilising previous external reports to inform but not determine Treatment Assessment outcomes balances both efficiency and effective treatment planning recommendations.

Treatment Assessments are triaged and allocated based on the prisoner's release dates, time overdue, available resources, current demand, security matters, and other operational needs.

Treatment Assessors refer to external reports to determine the validity of a pre-existing risk assessment in terms of date completed and are required to review such assessments to ensure it reflects the current risk/needs of a prisoner.

Further, they have a good understanding of the treatment programs available including the eligibility/suitability criteria that needs to be considered when making recommendations following completion of risk assessment tools.

- c. This recommendation is supported. Additional positions across the state were made available by re-purposing vacancies within other business areas to increase staffing by nine Treatment Assessors and one Supervisor for a period of two years. A budget submission was progressed to make these positions permanent along with further requested positions through the 2026/2027 budget process. This was approved and funding provided for the 2026/27 year. Future budget submissions will again be made with a view to extend these positions.

Recommendation 2

The Department should undertake an urgent review of Commissioner's Operating Policy and Procedure (COPP) 8.1 - Prison Based Constructive Activities to ascertain if a definition of direct/indirect supervision level is required and if so, clarify issues relating to safety and security parameters.

Department's Response:

This recommendation is supported in principle. The Department will consider the supervision expectations/requirements for prisoners working in industries units within the overarching

COPP, prior to determining whether amendments to supervision requirements are warranted and supported from a custodial operations perspective.

Recommendation 3

The Department of Justice i.e. (the Department) should conduct an urgent review to determine the appropriate levels of supervision for prisoners working in the industries area at Bunbury Regional Prison (i.e. Paint Shop, Metal Shop, Cabinet Shop etc). The review should also consider:

- a. Determining the minimum supervision levels appropriate for the Industries area workshops, and the minimum acceptable ratio of Vocational Support Officers to prisoners; and
- b. The feasibility of installing Close Circuit TV cameras in Industries area workshops so as to allow remote monitoring by prison officers on duty in the Multi-Function office; and
- c. A policy of closing Industry workshops when the identified basic level of supervision cannot be provided.

Department's Response:

This recommendation is supported in principle. As part of the COPP review, consideration will be given to:

- 1) supervision requirements for prisoners working within industries including the means and methods of supervision; and
- 2) supervision tolerances.

Where CCTV supervision is determined as an appropriate method of dynamic supervision, the Department will advocate for the necessary funding to support this.

Recommendation 4

The Department of Justice should initiate a mechanism for regularly checking all Automated External Defibrillators (AED) at Bunbury Regional Prison to ensure that each AED has a spare set of defibrillator pads.

Department's Response:

This recommendation is supported. An audit of all Automated Defibrillators (AED) at Bunbury has been completed which confirmed each have an additional set of defibrillator pads.

Since the death of Mr Devree, Bunbury is now conducting daily checks of AEDs and are recording the occurrence of such checks in the occurrence books.