

## Recommendation Response from Department of Health Biannual Report – February 2018

### Ms DHU

Ms Dhu, aged 22, died on 4 August 2014 as a result of staphylococcal septicaemia and pneumonia in a woman with osteomyelitis complicating a previous rib fracture. Ms Dhu was in the custody of the WA Police Service at the time of her death. Ms Dhu had been escorted to hospital on two separate occasions for assessment; however, her illness was not detected.

The Department of Health's Coronial Review Committee has reviewed these findings and made enquiries with relevant stakeholders within the Department of Health.

In relation to the recommendation regarding cultural training, which was not directed at the WA health system, the WA Department of Health has reported having well established online and face-to-face cultural training programs which are being well utilised. It has been reported that 85% of regional staff have completed the online training and there is a 74% completion rate across the WA health system (July 2017).

The issue of sharing of medical information with WA Police was discussed by the Medical Directors' Forum which noted the difficulties in providing information to police. It was noted however that section 217 of the *Health Services Act 2016* (HS Act) provides for disclosure of information by a Health Service Provider provided that it is, or is likely to be, relevant to:

- a) the treatment or care of a patient who has been, is being, or will or may be, provided with a health service by the health service provider
- b) the health, safety or wellbeing of a patient who has been, is being, or will or may be, provided with a health service by the health service provider.

The WA Department of Health notes that the *Health Services (Information) Regulations 2017* have now been released (November 2017).

The recommendation relevant to the WA health system is deemed ongoing at the time of releasing this report. Progress for this recommendation will be updated in the next report.