



16 AUG 2018

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Our Ref: 63-07475
Your Ref: 4132/2014

Mr Barry King
Deputy State Coroner
Office of the State Coroner
Level 10 Central Law Courts
501 Hay Street
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Wright

Thank you for the letter regarding the recommendations made following the Inquest into the death of Mr Brook Damian Cain.

I am advised that the Western Australia Police Force has reviewed and considered the recommendations in respect to this matter.

The Commissioner of Police consider and, if appropriate, implement regular in-service training of operational police officers in relation to mental health related issues.

It appears that the recommendation was formed as a result of information provided to the Deputy State Coroner during the Inquest. The WA Police Force advise the information was not in accordance with agency policy and procedure relating to mental health training. In addition, it did not take into account the implementation of measures to address previous Coronial recommendations regarding mental health, following the 2012 Inquest into the death of David Peter Ellery.

I am advised that in 2012-13, all frontline officers within the WA Police Force were required to undertake mandatory training in mental health. The training was developed in accordance with Australian New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency National Training Guidelines and provided officers with an awareness of mental health, legislated powers for police under the *Mental Health Act 1996*, process and policy with respect to a person with a mental health issue and details on when and how to contact the Mental Health Emergency Response Line.

I am also advised all Police Officer Recruits, Police Auxiliary Officers (Custody Support) and Transitional Officers are required to complete mental health training as part of their recruit program. Additionally, Mental Health First Aid has been delivered as part of available on-going training since 2012 by the Police Academy.

Furthermore, those police officers assigned to the Mental Health Co-Response coordination unit receive extensive training in the Mental Health Intervention Team program, delivered by New South Wales Police.

All training is subject to continuous improvement and review to ensure it remains contemporary.

In 2017, the Custodial Service and Mental Health Division (the Division) was established within the Judicial Services Portfolio. One of the key roles of the Division is to develop effective working relationships between the key government agencies and the relevant community not-for-profit mental health organisations.

I am also advised the WA Police Force policy on mental health outlines the operational requirements and legislated changes under the *Mental Health Act 2014*. Changes to the policy were communicated via agency-wide broadcasts in July and August 2017.

The WA Police Force is also a member of the Mental Health Interagency Forum, hosted by Department of Health to address mental health policy and procedural matters, which impact on the delivery of services.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

HON MICHELLE ROBERTS BA DipEd MLA
MINISTER FOR POLICE; ROAD SAFETY
15 AUG 2018