

Recommendation Response from Department of Health Biannual Report – February 2018

Geoffrey Mark REID

Geoffrey Mark Reid had a long history of mental illness and illicit drug use. He was admitted to Alma Street Centre as a voluntary patient and was recommenced on methadone treatment, via review through Next Step, concurrent to a plan for a graded increase in psychiatric medication. Geoffrey died on 12 December 2010 as a result of combined drug toxicity.

The Department of Health's Coronial Review Committee reviewed these findings and directed the recommendations to the appropriate stakeholders for review and response.

The Chief Pharmacist has commenced a review of the Operational Directive 0598/15 (*Management of Community Program for Opioid Pharmacotherapy (CPOP) patients in a hospital setting*) and will include the use of methadone in opioid substitution and pain management, and information for health practitioners about specific risks associated with commencing or recommencing a patient onto methadone.

The Fremantle Hospital Mental Health Service have liaised with the South Metropolitan Community Drug and Alcohol Service for an Addiction Medicine Consultant to work at the Fremantle Mental Health Service, to provide consultation and treatment advice to managing patients with complex comorbidity mental health and drug and alcohol issues. A Memorandum of Understanding between Fremantle Mental Health Service and South Metropolitan Community Alcohol and Drug Service is currently being finalised.

The Department of Health is currently considering advice from the Mental Health Commission and each of the Health Service Providers to determine whether it is feasible to establish Addiction Medicine consultant positions at each of the large metropolitan hospitals. Health Service Providers have reported a number of existing strategies to manage and improve health care service delivery to patients with mental health and drug and alcohol issues including, but not limited to: service level agreements with alcohol and other drug agencies; employment of alcohol and other drug health practitioners in mental health facilities; the establishment of in-reach services; and alcohol and other drug training.

The Coronial Review Committee members did not endorse mandatory CPOP (Community Program for Opioid Pharmacotherapy) training for all psychiatrists across WA Health for the purposes of being authorised prescribers. The South Metropolitan Health Service has mandated CPOP awareness training for all medical staff at Fremantle Hospital, and has extended the training opportunity to all clinicians.

Of the three recommendations made by the coroner, two have been duly considered and deemed closed or completed; and, one is ongoing at the time of this report. Progress will be updated in the next report.