



Department of Justice and Community Safety

Secretary

Level 29
121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone: (03) 8684 0501
justice.vic.gov.au
DX: 210077

Our ref: EBC ID 22014917
Your ref: COR 2013 2134

Her Honour Caitlin English
Deputy State Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Deputy State Coroner English

I refer to your findings and recommendations made on 17 December 2021 regarding the death of Mr Barry Gray, who tragically died on or about 17 May 2013 as a result of multiple stab wounds to his chest and neck caused by Mr John Woodruff. Mr Woodruff was subject to a Community Correction Order (CCO) from 30 April 2013 to 29 October 2014, supervised by Community Correctional Services (CCS) at the time of this incident.

Recommendation 1

That Justice Health give consideration to the creation of a concise discharge summary, to include diagnoses, medications and treatment plans, which can be generated from a prisoner's health records, similar to a patient summary electronically generated by GPs from a patient's medical record (discharge summary);

The recommendation is accepted. A discharge summary generated from an individual's health record is available in custodial settings. However, opportunities to improve the discharge planning process and further support information sharing will be explored.

Recommendation 2

A formal process should be considered to give an offender the opportunity to consent to provision of the above-mentioned discharge summary, or similar, to Community Correctional Services staff who are conducting an assessment for a Community Correction Order and case managing an offender, and who is being released from prison onto a Community Correction Order (through their lawyer or as appropriate).

The recommendation is accepted in-principle. Justice Health has current processes to enable the sharing of a prisoner health information, with consent, to other parties, inclusive of Community Correctional Services staff. This process will be reviewed further in accordance with this recommendation.

Recommendation 3

A formal process should be considered to give an offender the opportunity to consent to provision of the above-mentioned discharge summary to an Area Mental Health Service to which a person has been referred upon their release from prison (through their lawyer or as appropriate).

The recommendation is accepted in-principle. In accordance with Justice Health's current process of health information sharing, as outlined above, further improvements to the process will be explored in accordance with this recommendation.

Recommendation 4

A formal process should be established whereby the consent of an offender should be sought (through their lawyer or as appropriate), to provide any previous psychiatric or psychological reports on the Court file to Community Correctional Services and Forensicare where the Court requests a pre-sentence psychiatric report (and any refusal recorded)

This recommendation is accepted in-principle. Justice Services in consultation with Court Services Victoria (CSV), will explore a process for CCS to access psychiatric or psychological reports located on the court file, with consideration from CSV regarding seeking an accused's consent to information sharing. Where such material exists and has been tendered to the court, it would be of value to CCS any time a suitability assessment has been requested, not only in circumstances where a pre-sentence psychiatric report has also been requested. While the recommendation specifies this occur where the court requests a pre-sentence psychiatric report, it is respectfully noted that CCS will only participate and seek access to such material in cases where the sentencing court has sought CCS assessment of an accused's suitability for an order.

DJCS welcomes additional opportunity to collaborate with the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist (OCP) and Department of Health. DJCS will participate in the recommended forum arranged by the OCP to review current discharge processes and to work with Forensic Clinical Specialists to support access to treatment and better outcomes for people subject to community based dispositions.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Roberts, Director, Community Operations and Parole, Department of Justice and Community Safety, on 0448 342 435 or jenny.roberts@justice.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Falkingham
Secretary

04/04/2022