The Hon Ryan Park MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Regional Health
Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast

Your Ref: 2024/0001072
Our Ref: COR23/29

The Hon. Michael Daley, MP
Attorney General
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000
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Coronial inquest into the death of CC

Dear Attorney General Michael

I write in relation to the findings and recommendations made on 15 December 2023 by Deputy State Coroner Erin Kennedy in the inquest into the death of CC.

CC was a 33-year-old First Nations man who died on 15 June 2022 of intentionally self-inflicted hanging while admitted to the Mental Health High Dependency Unit at Nepean Hospital.

Magistrate Kennedy explored issues regarding CC's mental health condition, care and treatment during CC's admission, communication, risk assessment of self-harm, and whether CC's death was self-inflicted.

The Deputy State Coroner made one recommendation to the district which is supported.

Recommendation

The Deputy State Coroner recommended:

That Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District consider whether it would be appropriate to implement a process in the mental health ward, whereby nursing staff can highlight events they consider significant in the electronic medical record, with a view to drawing attention to such events for future nursing shifts and/or the treating team.

Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District advises a standard shift summary template in the electronic medical record form is being updated to have an issues section for the treating team. The use of this form will be mandated across all Mental Health in-patient units.

To date the summary template has been updated, and clinicians have been consulted about implementation. The *Mental Health Clinical Documentation Guidelines* procedure is currently being updated, for release in June 2024, with education to nurses and medical officers. Compliance with the updated shift summary template will be evaluated for all inpatient units.

Further, since CC's death, the district advises that a review was undertaken regarding the bed linen used in the High Dependency Unit, and a new procedure published in June 2023 for the allocation and use of tear resistant bed linen and gowns for high-risk consumers. A risk assessment was completed of the door design of the ensuite doors within the High Dependency Unit, and as a result, cut downs for the tops of all the ensuite doors was completed in December 2023.

I trust that this response confirms NSW Health's commitment to a process of continuous improvement and delivering safe and high-quality care to all patients of the NSW health system.

For more information, please contact Joanne Edwards, Executive Director, System Management Branch, NSW Ministry of Health at moh-systemmanagementbranch@health.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Ryan Park MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Regional Health
Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast

CC: NSW Coroner's Court

Encl. Coroner's report – *Inquest into the death of CC*