

# The Hon Ryan Park MP

Minister for Health  
Minister for Regional Health  
Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast



Your Ref: 2019/126969

Our Ref: COR23/8

The Hon. Michael Daley, MP  
Attorney General  
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## Coronial inquest into the death of LT

Dear Attorney General

I write in relation to the findings and recommendations made on 23 March 2023 by Deputy State Coroner Elizabeth Ryan regarding the death of LT.

LT died on 21 April 2019 of methylamphetamine toxicity at Mid North Coast Correctional Centre. He was 24 years of age and died after ingesting small packages of methylamphetamine which had been unlawfully brought into the correctional centre. The packages ruptured, causing his death.

LT was the younger brother of KT, who subsequently died in custody in May 2019. Magistrate Ryan held the two inquests one after the other, to reduce the distress of the family.

A joint recommendation was directed to Justice Health NSW and Corrective Services NSW. The NSW Health response advises that Justice Health supports the recommendation.

The Deputy State Coroner recommended:

*That the Commissioner, Corrective Services NSW in consultation with the Justice Health NSW, reintroduce the Drug Use in the Inmate Population Research Project or equivalent, to examine:*

- *the nature of drug use reported during inmate screening processes by Justice Health NSW;*
- *the nature of drug use otherwise reported during inmate surveys conducted during periods of imprisonment;*
- *treatment options within Corrective Services NSW Corrective Centres; and*
- *security responses attempting to interdict the supply of illicit drugs into NSW correctional centres.*

Research groups from Justice Health and Corrective Services NSW will coordinate efforts with Justice Health Drug and Alcohol Service providing subject matter expertise. Their project is part of a partnership between both agencies to achieve better patient/inmate outcomes.

Justice Health will use funding from the special commission into ice inquiry to establish 17.5 full-time equivalent positions to develop a new model of care for patients with amphetamine use problems. The implementation of the model of care will be rigorously evaluated by Justice Health.

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 Vicki Manning, A/Executive Director, System Management Branch, NSW Ministry of Health at [moh-systemmanagementbranch@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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 LT*