

# The Hon Ryan Park MP

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



Your Ref: 2020/22402

Our Ref: COR23/20

The Hon. Michael Daley, MP  
Attorney General  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
[office@daley.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@daley.minister.nsw.gov.au)

## Coronial inquest into the death of SH

Dear Attorney General

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael".

I write in relation to the findings and recommendations made on 16 August 2023 by Deputy State Coroner Forbes regarding the death of SH.

SH died on 19 January 2020 of hanging at Cessnock Correctional Centre, NSW. SH's death was intentionally self-inflicted while in the lawful custody of Corrective Services NSW.

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

### Recommendation 1

The Deputy State Coroner recommended:

*That Corrective Services NSW and Justice Health NSW conduct inter-agency consultations and implement measures aimed at further improving the provision or accessibility of information to families and next of kin who are concerned about an inmate's mental health.*

Justice Health NSW is committed to further strengthening a collaborative partnership with Corrective Services NSW to deliver Integrated Care Services and improve information to families and next of kin who are concerned about an inmate's mental health. Further, Justice Health NSW strives to ensure that carers and families have positive experiences and do not experience barriers in accessing inter-agency information.

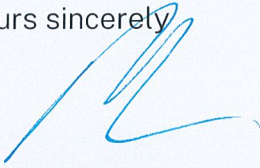
A working group with representatives from both agencies is focused on implementing solutions to improve accessibility of information to families and next of kin. Solutions include improving both agencies' websites, improving JHNSW staff capability in engaging with families and carers, and developing a virtual hub of clinicians to receive family and carer queries. In addition, the working group will ensure the Justice Health NSW Mental Health Helpline number is prominent on both agencies' websites and is available to patients in-cell via the use of tablets.



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](mailto:moh-systemmanagementbranch@health.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Ryan Park MP**

Minister for Health

Minister for Regional Health

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CC: NSW Coroner's Court

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