

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Walker to the Attorney-General:

Response to Coroner's Recommendations

1. Can you please provide your Department's response to each of the recommendations made by the Coroner in his recommendations of 14 August 2015 related to Mr Langdon's death in custody?

Section 46A(1) of the *Coroners Act* provides that, if the Attorney-General receives a report or recommendation from a Coroner under section 27 or 35 that contains comment relating to an agency or the Police Force of the Northern Territory, the Attorney-General must, without delay, give a copy of the report or recommendation to the Chief Executive Officer of that agency or the Commissioner of Police.

The Coroner's recommendation at paragraph 92 of the Langdon Coronial contains comment specifically relating to areas that fall within the responsibility of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services. Under the current Administrative Arrangement Orders, the Department of Health has responsibility for alcohol and other drug services, alcohol management plans and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation. The recommendation at paragraph 93 contains comment relating to the Department of Health.

Section 46B of the *Coroners Act* requires that the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health and the Commissioner of Police must, within three months of receiving the recommendation, provide the Attorney-General with a written response, including a statement of action the agency is taking, has taken or will take, with respect to the recommendations. The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health and the Commissioner of Police were provided with the Coroner's recommendations on 16 September 2015. Upon receipt of the responses, a report will be drafted to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, as is required under section 46B(3) of the *Coroners Act*.

The Department of the Attorney-General and Justice is not the responsible agency for providing a response to the recommendations. Responses from the responsible agencies are not yet available and the statutory requirements under the *Coroners Act* do not require responses to be provided prior to the three month time limit elapsing.