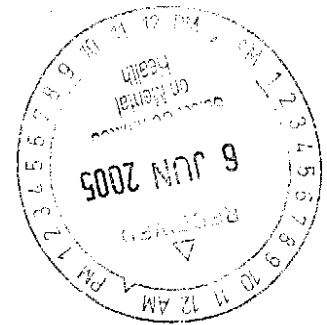


INQUIRY INTO MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH



My son died from suicide on the 30/ 11/ 03, he was 21 yrs old and the grief my family has been left to suffer is devastating.

At 15 he was diagnosed with “serious depression” and treated with both medication and psychotherapy at the [REDACTED] Road Clinic. At 19 he was diagnosed with “borderline personality disorder” by a forensic psychologist and by this time had also made several attempts at suicide two of which required hospitalization at [REDACTED] Medical Centre. For all the councilors, psychologists and psychiatrists we engaged with during this period they ultimately proved to be inept.

My son’s behavior also attracted the attention of one rather vindictive police constable who arrested, charged and remanded him on a charge that would later be disproved in the [REDACTED] Magistrates Court. The police paid all the court costs but that didn’t spare my son the entire ordeal including the seven weeks spent in remand.

The lack of integration between the various services was total and we as his family struggled with this dilemma. My wife and I feel betrayed by a society we once felt a part of. We never gave up on our son and were dedicated to his survival but one night he finally despaired and we are left to deal with the consequences.

[REDACTED]