

Attachment 1

CORONER'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

- 1.. TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH. That consideration be given to implementing a uniform system of Patient Categorisation of persons admitted as voluntary or involuntary patients in Mental Health Institutions. In that regard there should be a standard system applicable State Wide on either a Numerical or Alphabetical System according to Risk factors. Whatever practical or logistical problems that such a standard system may impose on the day to administration and patient care are secondary to the desirability of uniformity.
2. TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH. That standardised paper systems be also adopted on a State wide basis. In particular. Observation Charts, Leave Registers and other ancillary documents associated with patient categorisation and observations.
3. TO THE MINISTER. That consideration be given to adopting the system now in place at the Sydney Area Health Service in regard to maintaining Observation Charts as part of the patients Clinical Records. That this be adopted on a State wide basis.
4. TO THE MINISTER. That Consideration be given to producing an appropriate pamphlet which could be available at all Area Health Services informing patients, carers and relatives on important issues associated with Mental Health. Whilst not exhaustive, they should include information on the provisions of the Mental Health Act, patient categorisation, procedures concerning day leave or weekend leave, explanations regarding voluntary and involuntary patient Status, telephone contact numbers, (including after hours), support services etc.
5. TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH- That the System of Internal and External Reviews of Critical Incidents be re-examined, particularly in regard to matters that are clearly or likely to come within the jurisdiction of the Coroner. It is suggested that if the system of External Reviews is to be maintained, protocols should be issued to ensure that the Review is thorough, independent and its findings and or recommendations be disseminated through the Mental Health Services State Wide.