

**If you need crisis support, call Lifeline on 13 11 14, or call Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800, 24 hours a day. For general support, talk to your GP or local health professional.**

## APPENDIX

### RECORDED CONTACT WITH STATE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AUTHORITIES, SCHOOLS AND REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATIONS BY THE 36 YOUNG PEOPLE WHO DIED BY SUICIDE

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#### 1 Introduction

This Appendix draws on information collected in the course of the investigation to provide a more detailed description of the extent and nature of recorded contact by the 36 young people with State government departments and authorities, government and non-government schools, and government and non-government registered training organisations. Organisations are listed in alphabetical order.

So that the Appendix may stand alone as a source of information, it repeats the information which was previously provided in Chapter 5 about recorded contact by the 36 young people with the Department of Health's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, government and non-government schools and government and non-government registered training organisations. However, the Appendix should be read in conjunction with Chapter 5 so as to understand the four groupings of young people referred to throughout the Appendix.

To ensure that individual children are not identified by this report, the Office has aggregated the data.

#### 2 Definition of 'contact'

The table below sets out the definition of 'contact' applied during the analysis of the information collected from the organisations who participated in the investigation.

Organisation	Definition of 'contact', as indicated by records
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service ( <b>CAMHS</b> )	Young person was the subject of a referral received by CAMHS, or received services from CAMHS.
Department for Child Protection and Family Support ( <b>DCPFS</b> )	Young person was the subject of an interaction with DCPFS; young person directly communicated with DCPFS; young person was the subject of protection action by DCPFS (including being in the care of the CEO).  In this report, if a young person had contact with DCPFS, or was part of a family who had contact with DCPFS, we refer to this situation as the young person being <b>known to DCPFS</b> .

Department of Corrective Services ( <b>DCS</b> )	Young person was referred to a DCS service by Western Australia Police Officers under section 27 of the <i>Young Offenders Act 1994</i> ; young person was referred by a court under section 28 of the <i>Young Offenders Act 1994</i> ; or young person served time in a custodial facility.
Department of Housing	Young person was part of a family that lodged an application for, or received services from, Department of Housing.
Department of the Attorney General ( <b>DOTAG</b> )	Young person received an offer of services from DOTAG regarding its Child Witness Service or Victim Support Services.
Government and non-government schools, and government and non-government registered training organisations	Young person was enrolled with a government or non-government school or government or non-government registered training organisation.
WA Health	Young person received treatment from a hospital Emergency Department; young person received treatment as an inpatient or outpatient of WA Health.
Western Australia Police ( <b>WAPOL</b> )	Young person was the subject of a report by WAPOL Officers to DCPFS; young person was charged with an offence by WAPOL.

### 3 Details of recorded contact between organisations that participated in the investigation and the 36 young people

#### Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

Young people in Group 1 Of the 20 young people in Group 1, eight had been referred by a general practitioner or staff of a hospital emergency department to CAMHS. Three or fewer of these young people were also admitted to hospital for a mental illness.

Young people in Group 2 The four young people in Group 2 who had been diagnosed with a mental illness all presented at CAMHS following referred by a general practitioner.

Young people in Group 3 No contact.

Young people in Group 4 No contact.

## Department for Child Protection and Family Support (DCPFS)

Young people in Group 1 Of the 20 young people in Group 1, all had contact with DCPFS, or were part of a family who had contact with DCPFS. We refer to this situation as the young person being '**known to DCPFS.**' Of the 20 young people in Group 1:

- sixteen were known to DCPFS because the Department had received information that raised concerns about the wellbeing of the young person;
- three or fewer young people were known to DCPFS for a variety of reasons, as follows:
  - through a parent's application for financial assistance;
  - because the Department had received information that raised concerns about the wellbeing of the young person's sibling; and/or
  - through a Western Australian Police notification.

Information provided to DCPFS relating to the wellbeing of young people in Group 1 encompassed a number of issues:

- child maltreatment allegations, including allegations of family and domestic violence, neglect, sexual abuse, and physical abuse;
- parental alcohol and substance misuse;
- absconding from places of care;
- access to adequate food or medical care; and
- concerns raised by a member of the public about parenting of a young person.

Reports to DCPFS originated from a number of sources, including members of the community such as family members or neighbours, and from a range of 'professionals,' who had contact with the young people or their families in their professional capacity. This includes:

- Western Australia Police Officers;
- Teachers, psychologists or administrative staff of schools;
- Staff of a hospital or medical centre;
- Staff of the Department of Corrective Services; and

- Staff of a non-government organisation (**NGO**) (for example a youth centre, refuge, or homeless service provider).

Young people in Group 2 No contact.

Young people in Group 3 No contact.

Young people in Group 4 Of the five young people in Group 4, four were known to DCPFS for various reasons as follows:

- through a parent's application for financial assistance;
- DCPFS had received information that raised concerns about the wellbeing of the young person's sibling;
- through a Western Australian Police notification; and/or
- through a parent's request for assistance regarding the young person's sibling.

### **Department of Corrective Services (DCS)**

Young people in Group 1 Of the 20 young people in Group 1, seven were referred to a Juvenile Justice Team under the *Young Offenders Act 1994*, by Western Australia Police officers or by a court.

Three or fewer young people spent time in a custodial facility. All time served by these young people was on the basis of a remand warrant issued by a court. Three or fewer young people were also the subject of a Community Based Order and/or an Intensive Youth Supervision Order.

Young people in Group 2 No contact.

Young people in Group 3 No contact.

Young people in Group 4 Three or fewer young people in Group 4 were referred to a Juvenile Justice Team by a court under section 28 of the *Young Offenders Act 1994*, after having been charged with an offence.

### **Department of Housing**

Young people in Group 1 Of the 20 young people in Group 1, 14 had contact with the Department of Housing as follows:

- at the time of their deaths, seven were listed as registered householders with the Department of Housing;
- four were listed on applications for public housing that

were later withdrawn; and

- three or fewer young people had been registered householders with the Department of Housing in the past but were no longer registered householders at the time of their death.

Young people in Group 2 No contact.

Young people in Group 3 No contact.

Young people in Group 4 Of the five young people in Group 4, three or fewer young people had been registered householders with the Department of Housing in the past but were no longer registered householders at the time of their death.

### **Department of the Attorney General (DOTAG)**

Young people in Group 1 Of the 20 young people in Group 1, four had contact with DOTAG's support services. These young people were all offered services through the Child Witness Services.

Young people in Group 2 No contact.

Young people in Group 3 No contact.

Young people in Group 4 Three or fewer young people in Group 4 were known to DOTAG and offered support services for victims of crime. These offers were not accepted.

### **Schools and registered training organisations**

Young people in Group 1 Of the 20 young people in Group 1:

- seventeen were enrolled in school; and
- three or fewer young people were enrolled full time at a registered training organisation and/or engaged in full time employment.

Of the 17 young people enrolled in school:

- the majority attended a government high school as their last school; and
- three or fewer attended a non-government high school as their last school.

Of the 20 young people in Group 1, seven had contact with a registered training organisation:

- five young people had contact with a government registered training organisation in their school;
- three or fewer young people had contact with a

government registered training organisation on campus; and

- three or fewer young people had contact with a government registered training organisation on campus, and a non-government registered training organisation in their school.

Young people in Group 2 Of the five young people in Group 2, the majority were enrolled in school with fewer young people engaged in full time employment.

Of the young people attending school:

- three or fewer young people attended a government high school as their last school; and
- three or fewer young people attended a non-government school as their last school.

Of the five young people in Group 2, three or fewer young people were or had been enrolled with a registered training organisation and either:

- received training in their school from a government registered training organisation; and/or
- had contact with a government registered training organisation on campus.

Young people in Group 3 Of the six young people in Group 3:

- the majority attended a non-government school as their last school;
- three or fewer young people received training in school from a government registered training organisation or received training in school from a non-government registered training organisation.

Young people in Group 4 Of the five young people in Group 4, three or fewer were in full time employment and were not enrolled at school. Of the five young people in Group 4, all had attended a government high school as their last school.

- four of the five young people in Group 4 had contact with a registered training organisation, and:
- received training in their school from a government registered training organisation;
- had contact with a government registered training organisation on campus; and/or
- had contact with a non-government registered training

organisation on campus.

## WA Health

Young people in Group 1 Of the 20 young people in Group 1, 19 young people attended a hospital Emergency Department during their lives. The average number of hospital Emergency Department visits was 10.7 per young person (with a median of 8).

Eleven young people received outpatient care:

- three or fewer young people were treated for Sexually Transmitted Infections,
- eight were treated for fractures;
- seven were treated for mental illness; and
- five were treated for injuries sustained while under the influence of alcohol.

The most common reasons for outpatient care were lacerations or contusions.

Ten young people were admitted to hospital throughout their lives, some more than once for a variety of reasons, including:

- as an involuntary patient under the *Mental Health Act 1996*;
- for bacterial infections;
- for fractures; and/or
- following suicide attempts.

Young people in Group 2 Of the five young people in Group 2, three or fewer attended a hospital Emergency Department, and did so in the last two years of their lives. For these young people the average number of Emergency Department admissions was 2.6 (with a median of 2.3). The young people who attended a hospital Emergency Department had been admitted for various reasons, including:

- for self-harm;
- for depression; and/or
- for mental health related illness.

Young people in Group 3 Three or fewer young people of the five young people in Group 3 attended hospital Emergency Departments.

These young people were treated for chronic illnesses in childhood.

Young people in Group 4 All of the five young people in Group 4 attended a hospital Emergency Department in their lives:

- the average number of Emergency Department admissions was 11; and
- the median number of Emergency Department admissions was 7.

The five young people in Group 4 all were treated as outpatients of hospital Emergency Departments for reasons including:

- treatment of lacerations sufficient to need stitches;
- broken bones;
- sexually transmitted infections; and/or
- viral infections.

### **Western Australia Police (WAPOL)**

Young people in Group 1 Of the 20 young people in Group 1, 15 had contact with WAPOL at some time in their lives. This contact was as follows:

- thirteen of the 15 young people were the subject of reports by WAPOL officers to DCPFS, which are generated when WAPOL have contact with a young person and this contact raises concerns about the safety or wellbeing of the young person; and
- nine of the 15 young people were charged with one or more offences.

For seven of the 13 young people who were the subject of reports by WAPOL Officers, these Officers made multiple reports to DCPFS. Concerns identified in the WAPOL reports to DCPFS included:

- family and domestic violence;
- homelessness;
- sexual or physical harm;
- the absence of a responsible adult;
- absconding;
- violence or aggression; and/or
- apprehension of the young person in Northbridge without a responsible adult under section 41 of the

*Children and Community Services Act 2004 .*

The most common issue identified in WAPOL reports to DCPFS was family and domestic violence; seven (54 per cent) of the 13 young people were the subject of notifications concerning family and domestic violence.

Three or fewer of the nine young people in Group 1 who had been charged with an offence were charged on multiple occasions. Charges laid involved offences under the *Criminal Code*, *Bail Act 1982*, *Restraining Orders Act 1997*, *Road Traffic Act 1974* or *Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations 1992*.

All charges against the young people in Group 1 were referred for hearing by the Children's Court of Western Australia.

Young people in Group 2 No contact.

Young people in Group 3 No contact.

Young people in Group 4 Of the five young people in Group 4, three or fewer had contact with WAPOL, as follows:

- as the subject of a WAPOL notification to DCPFS; and/or
- were charged with an offence under the *Criminal Code Act Compilation Act 1913*.

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