

MEDIA RELEASE

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Commission report into Unit 18 at Casuarina Prison

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this statement contains the name of a deceased person.

The Corruption and Crime Commission report on ‘An investigation into allegations of serious misconduct following the death of a young detainee in Unit 18 Casuarina Prison’ was tabled today in State Parliament.

Cleveland Dodd was the first child to die in custody in Western Australia. He was found hanging in his badly damaged cell in Unit 18 in the early hours of 12 October 2023, and later died in hospital.

The Commission has a narrow, but important jurisdiction. It is empowered to investigate suspected serious misconduct as defined in the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*. “The purpose of the Commission’s investigation was to determine whether any serious misconduct on the part of any public officer working at Unit 18 in the critical lead up to Cleveland’s self-harm played a part in his death,” said Commissioner John McKechnie.

Though the Commission found there were a number of breaches of Department of Justice policies and procedures, after a comprehensive investigation, the Commission found there was no evidence giving rise to a reasonable suspicion of serious misconduct or corruption on the part of any public officer.

The report does not make recommendations to the Department of Justice, saying the Coronial inquest which commenced earlier this year, is best-placed to focus on wider considerations and make whole of government recommendations.

“Its focussed nature means this report may not answer all questions raised by the tragic death of this young man, nor satisfy anyone looking for quick or simple solutions,” said Commissioner John McKechnie.

ENDS

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